

MAKOTO YUKIMURA

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VINLAND SAGA

BOOK TWO



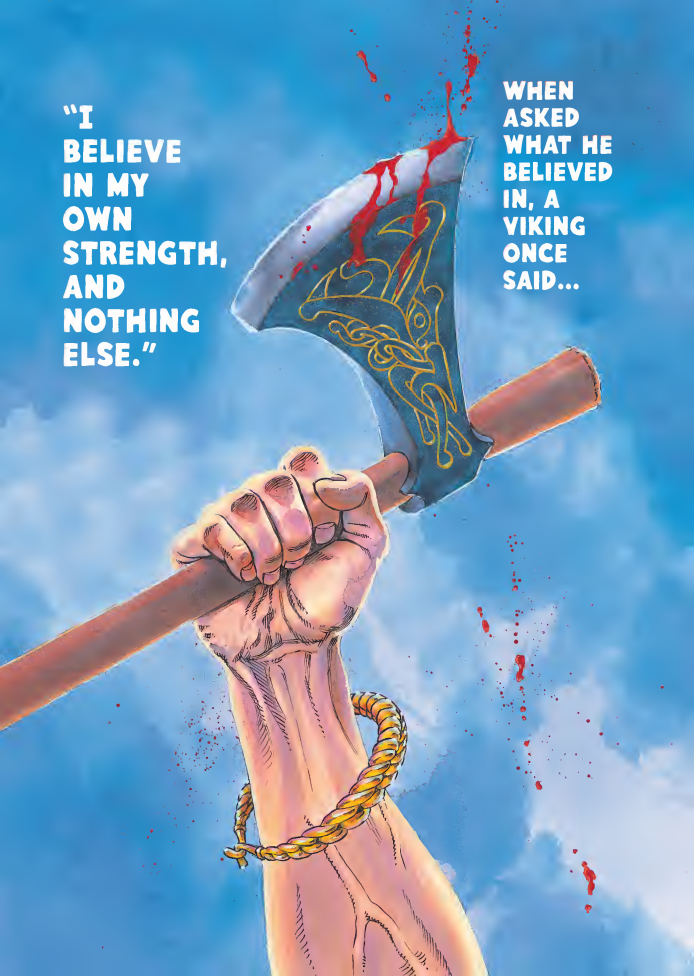
VINLAND SAGA

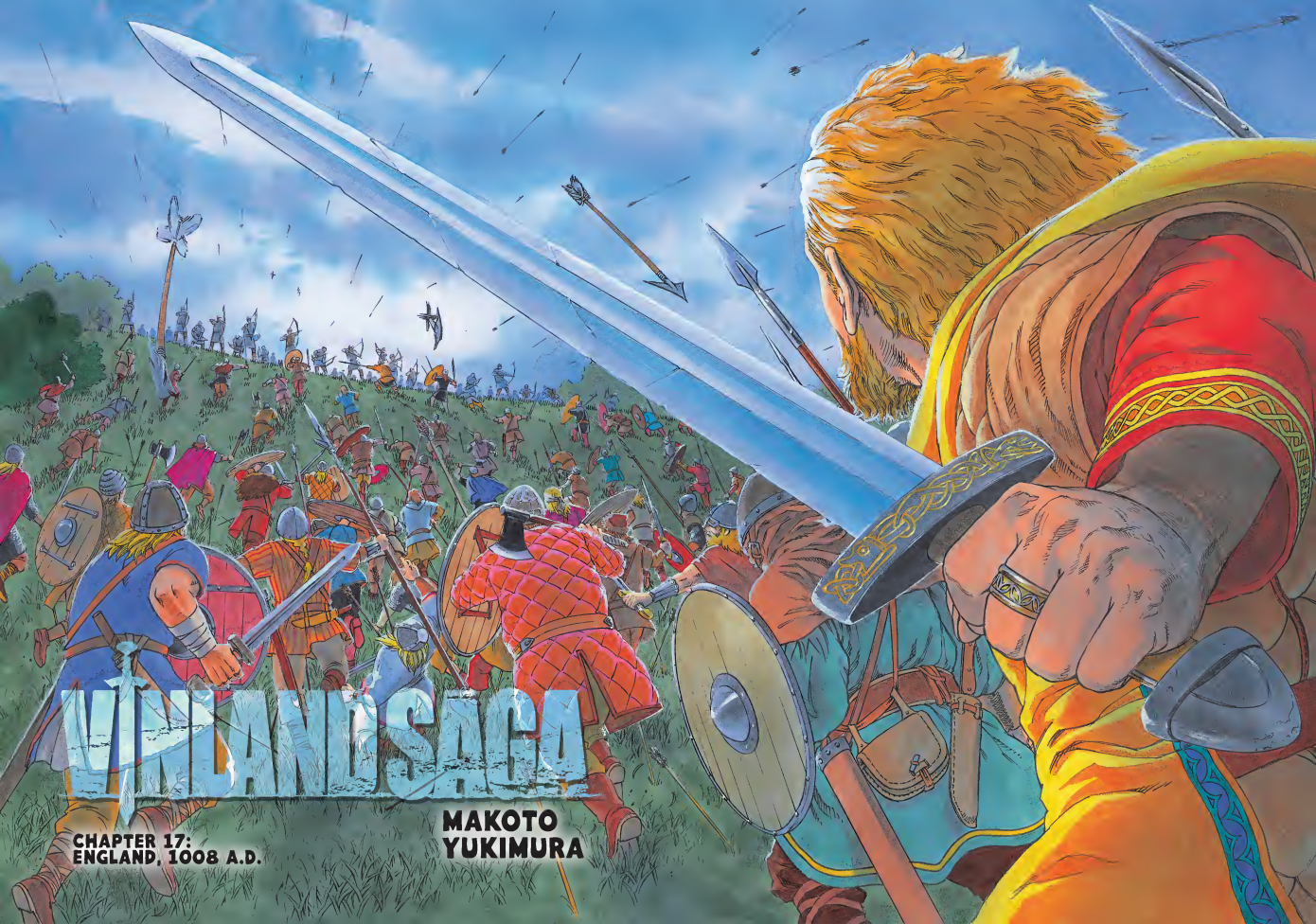
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**"I
BELIEVE
IN MY
OWN
STRENGTH,
AND
NOTHING
ELSE."**

**WHEN
ASKED
WHAT HE
BELIEVED
IN, A
VIKING
ONCE
SAID...**





VIKING SAGA

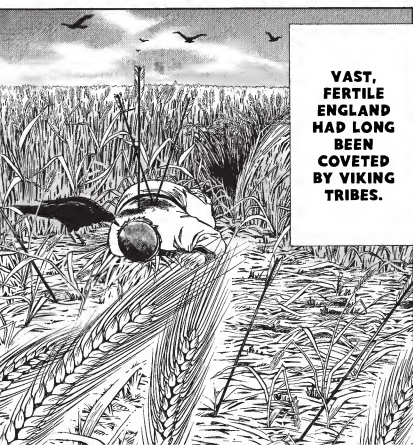
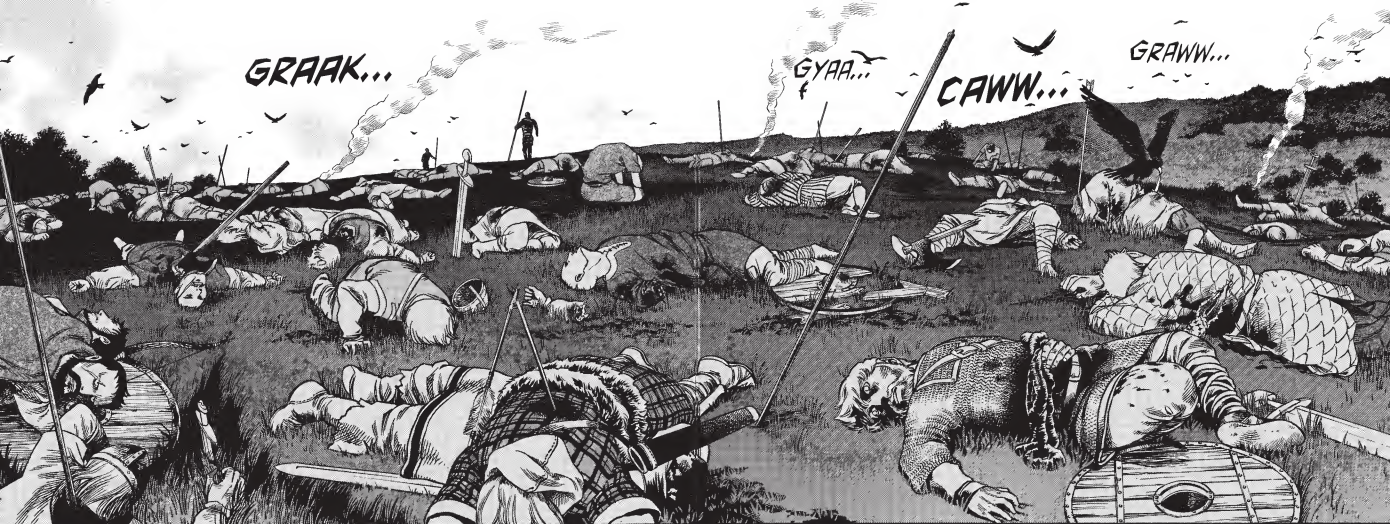
CHAPTER 17:
ENGLAND, 1008 A.D.

MAKOTO
YUKIMURA

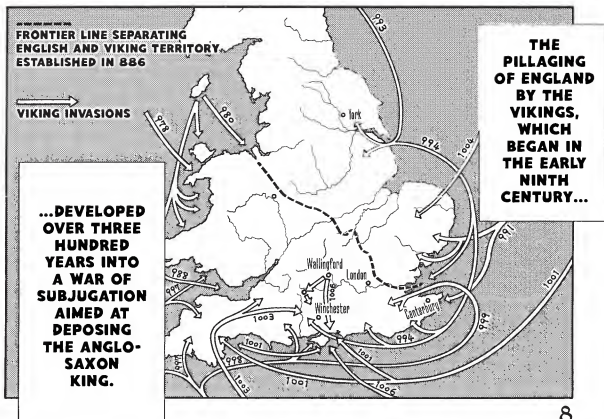


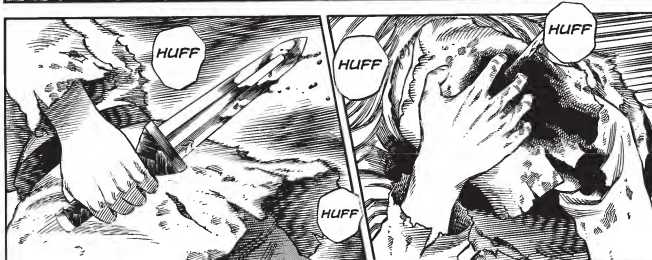
...BECAME
MORE AND
MORE
VICIOUS.

AFTER
1003 A.D.,
THE INVASION
OF ENGLAND
BY DANISH
VIKINGS...

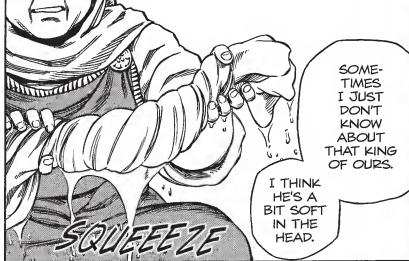


**VAST,
FERTILE
ENGLAND
HAD LONG
BEEN
COVETED
BY VIKING
TRIBES.**



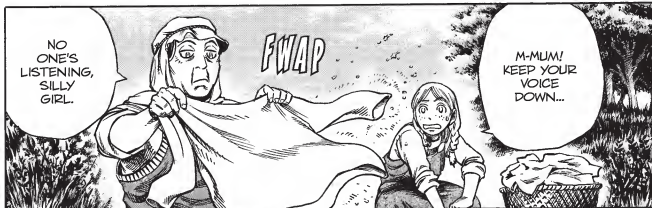






SOME-
TIMES
I JUST
DON'T
KNOW
ABOUT
THAT KING
OF OURS.

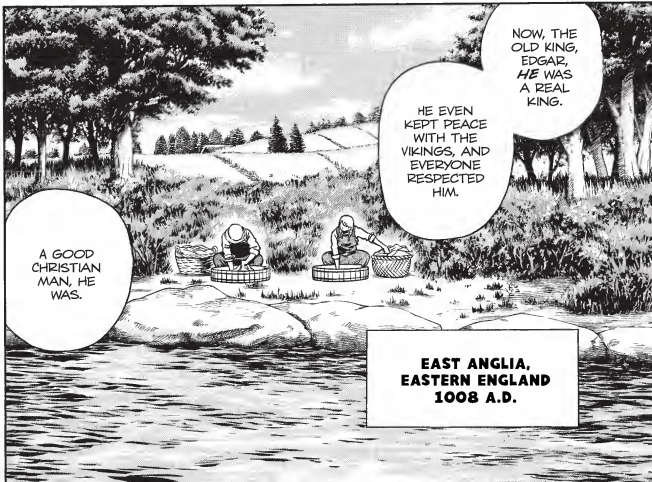
I THINK
HE'S A
BIT SOFT
IN THE
HEAD.



NO
ONE'S
LISTENING,
SILLY
GIRL.

FWAP

M-MUM!
KEEP YOUR
VOICE
DOWN...



A GOOD
CHRISTIAN
MAN, HE
WAS.

HE EVEN
KEPT PEACE
WITH THE
VIKINGS, AND
EVERYONE
RESPECTED
HIM.

NOW, THE
OLD KING,
EDGAR,
HE WAS
A REAL
KING.

**EAST ANGLIA,
EASTERN ENGLAND
1008 A.D.**

KILLING ALL
THE DANISH
SETTLERS
WITHOUT
WARNING?
WELL, IT'S
NO WONDER
THEY'RE
FURIOUS.

BUT KING
ETHELRED'S
LET IT ALL
GO TO
WASTE.

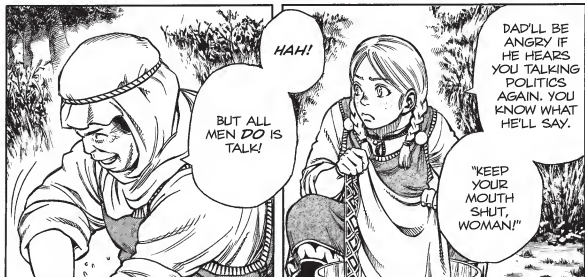


HAH!

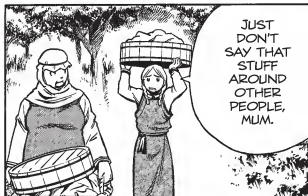
BUT ALL
MEN *DO* IS
TALK!

DAD'LL BE
ANGRY IF
HE HEARS
YOU TALKING
POLITICS
AGAIN. YOU
KNOW WHAT
HE'LL SAY.

"KEEP
YOUR
MOUTH
SHUT,
WOMAN!"



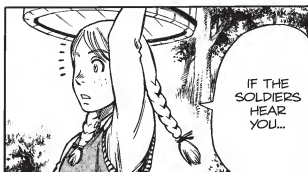
JUST
DON'T
SAY THAT
STUFF
AROUND
OTHER
PEOPLE,
MUM.



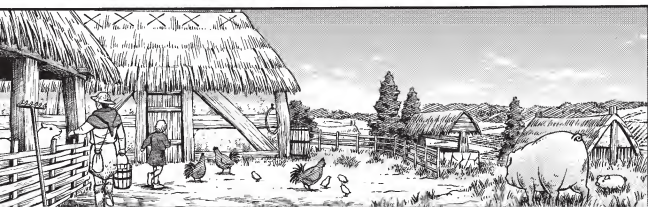
I NEVER
SAW ONE
WHO
COULD
SO MUCH
AS WASH
HIS OWN
CLOTHES
RIGHT.

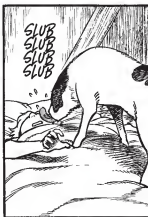
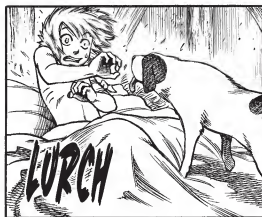
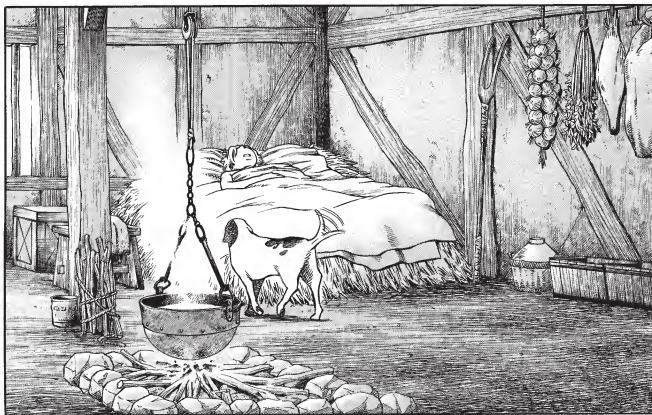
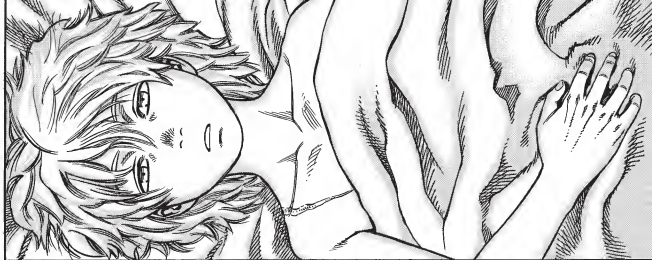


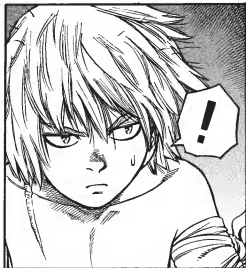
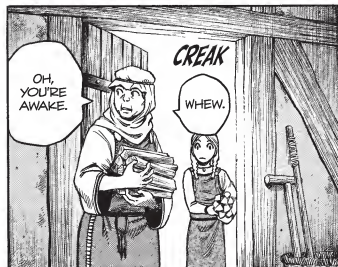
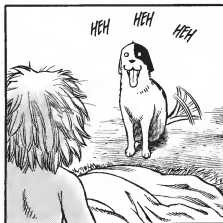
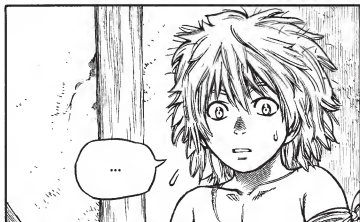
IF THE
SOLDIERS
HEAR
YOU...

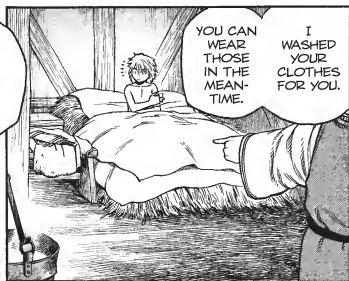
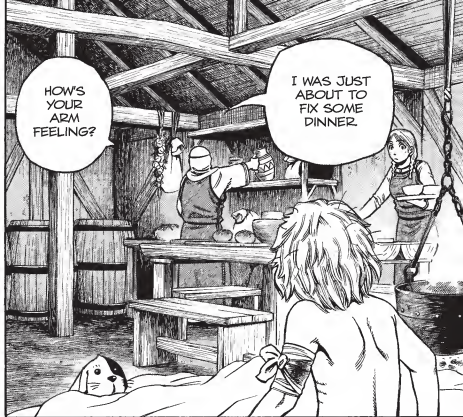


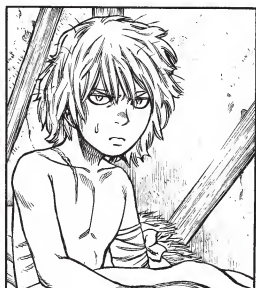
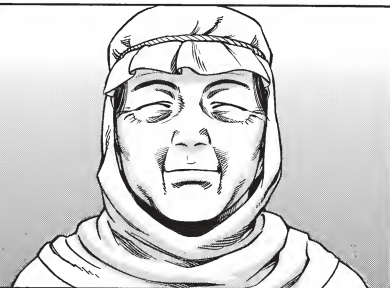




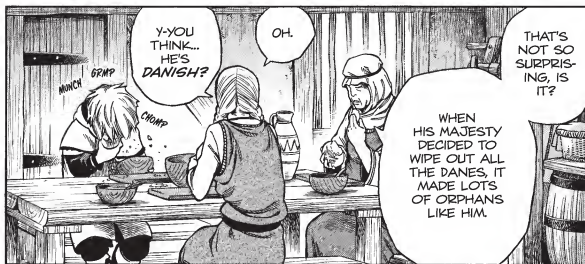
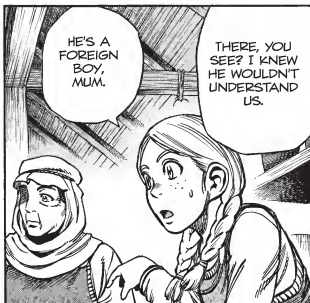


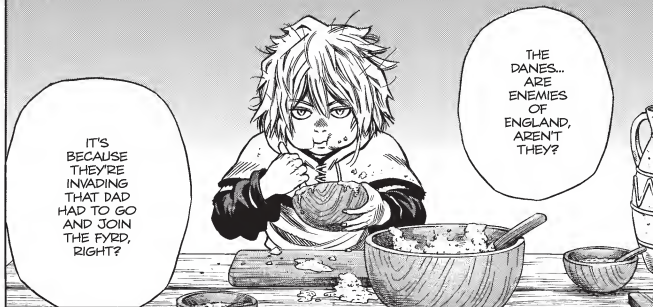






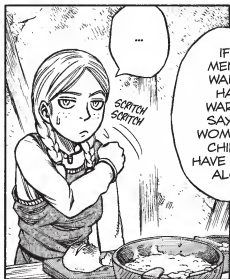






IT'S
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
INVADING
THAT DAD
HAD TO GO
AND JOIN
THE FYRD,
RIGHT?

THE
DANES...
ARE
ENEMIES
OF
ENGLAND,
AREN'T
THEY?



SCRATCH
SCRATCH

IF THE
MENFOLK
WANT TO
HAVE A
WAR, WHO
SAYS THE
WOMEN AND
CHILDREN
HAVE TO PLAY
ALONG?



AND
WHAT OF
IT?



SHAKA SHAKA SHAKA

PING

PING

PING

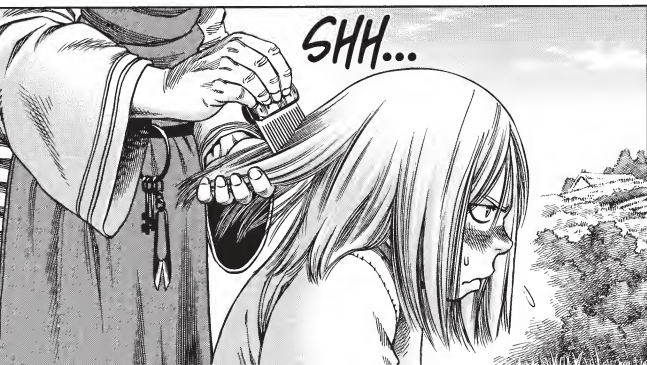
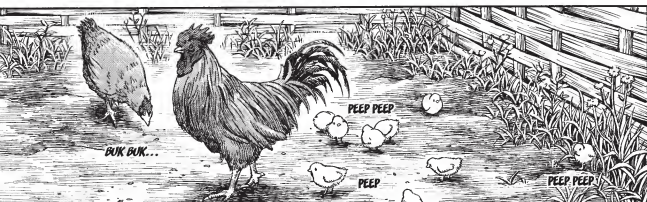
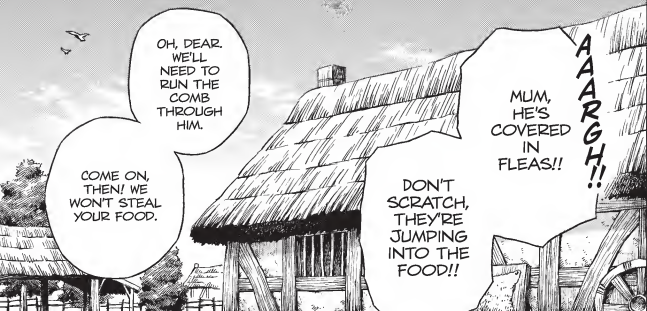


SCRATCH

SCRATCH

SCRATCH
SCRATCH

I'M
ITCHY...





I JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HOW YOU
BOYS GET SO
UNKEMPT!

THERE,
ISN'T THAT
MUCH
BETTER?

SNORT

OINK



A GOOD
COMBING
WOULD
ALWAYS
SETTLE HIM
DOWN.

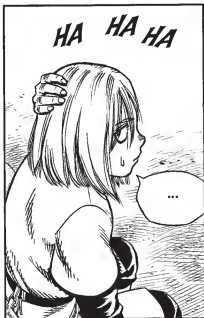
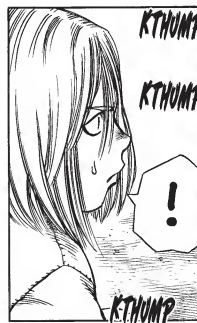
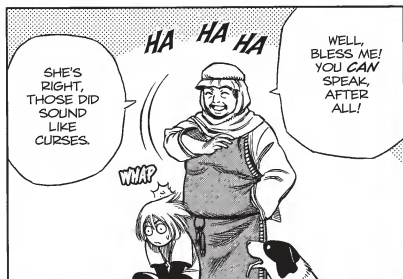
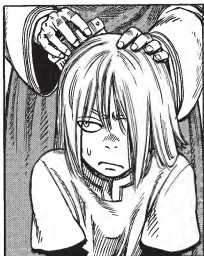
FHEW

MY
YOUNGER
ONE WOULD
SCRATCH
AND
SCRATCH AT
HIS HEAD...

SNIF SNIF



THEN HE
DIED OF
A FEVER,
YEAR
BEFORE
LAST.

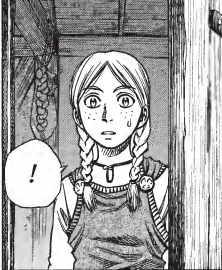






A
LITTLE
BOY
PIRATE?

A
BOY?

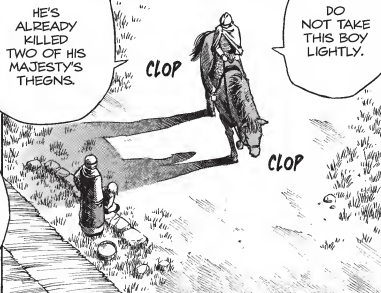


!



HE'LL
HAVE AN
ARROW
WOUND
ON HIS
LEFT ARM.

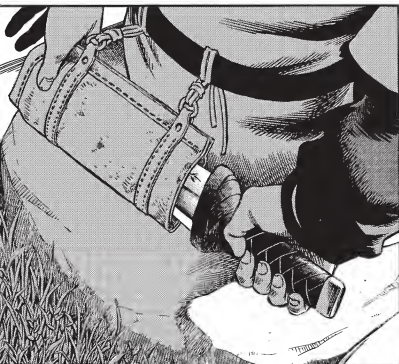
HE'S
ALREADY
KILLED
TWO OF HIS
MAJESTY'S
THEGNS.

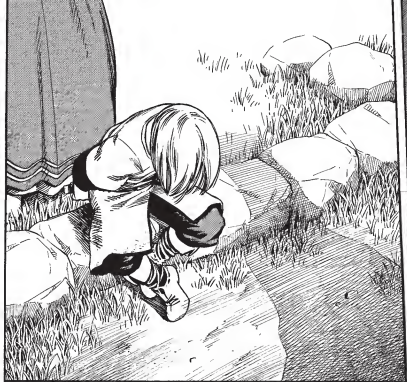


CLOP

CLOP

DO
NOT TAKE
THIS BOY
LIGHTLY.





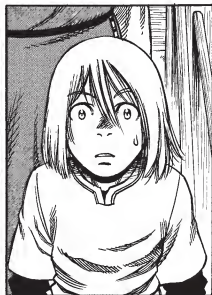
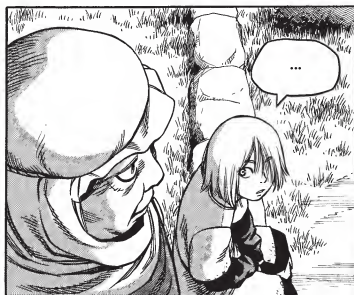
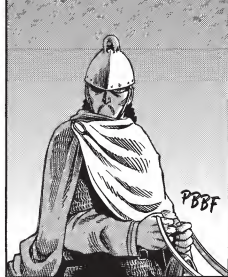
WO-
MAN.

IS THIS
ONE
YOURS?



JOHN
IS MY
YOUNGEST.
WHAT OF
IT?

THAT'S
RIGHT.





DON'T YOU UNDER-
STAND
WHAT'S
HAPPENING,
MUM?!



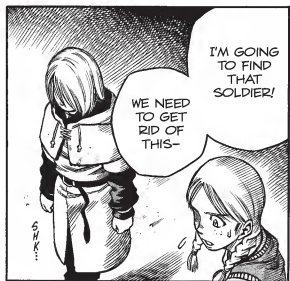
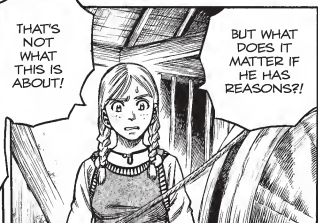
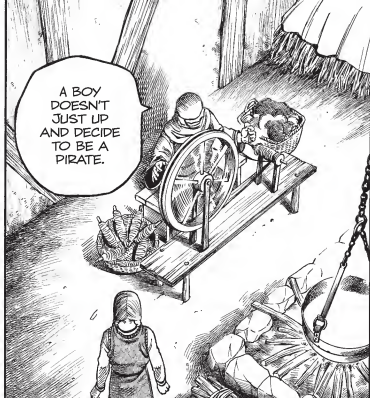
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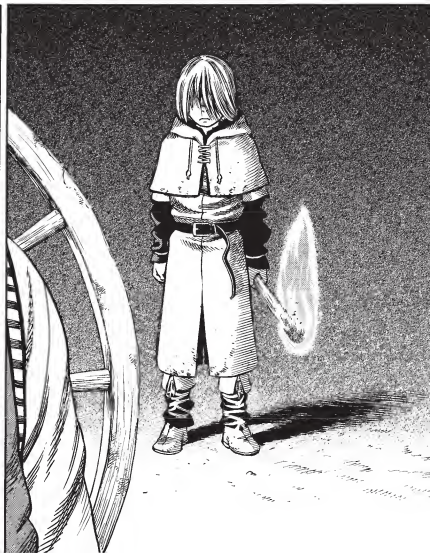
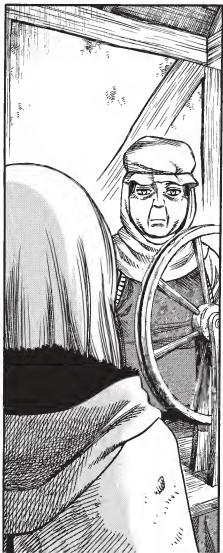
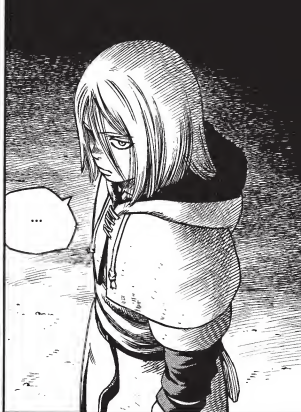


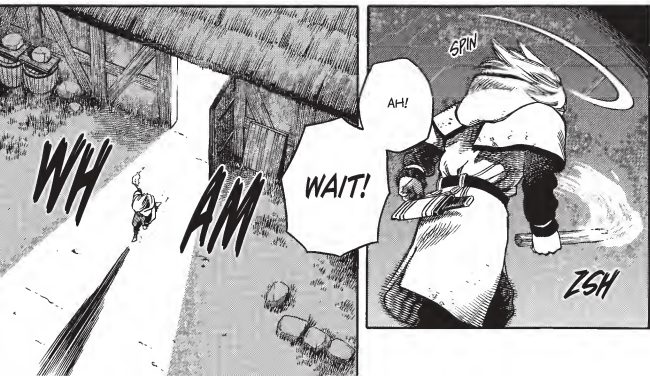
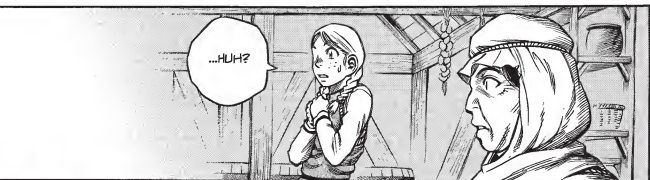
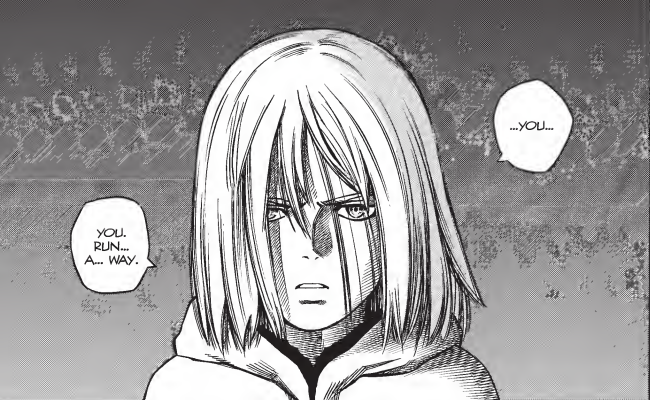
HE MAY
BE A BOY,
BUT HE'S
ALREADY
KILLED TWO
MEN!!

SO WHY
ARE WE
KEEPING
HIM
HERE?!

HE'S A
VIKING! A
PIRATE
!!









JOHN!!



FSHHH...

SHOULD
BE ANY
MOMENT
NOW...

HAVEN'T
SEEN IT.

WHERE'S
THORFINN'S
SIGNAL?

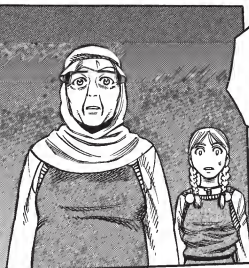




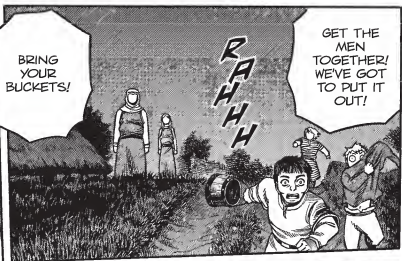


A SHACK'S
BURNING
DOWN BY
THE
WATER!!

**FIRE
!!**



BRING
YOUR
BUCKETS!



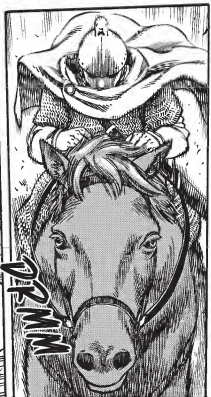
**RAH
H
H**

GET THE
MEN
TOGETHER!
WE'VE GOT
TO PUT IT
OUT!

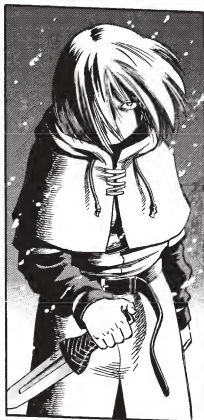
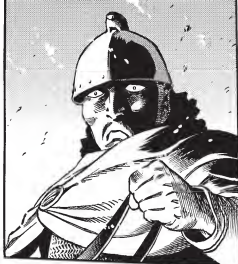


**DADUM
DADUM DADUM**

AAAH!



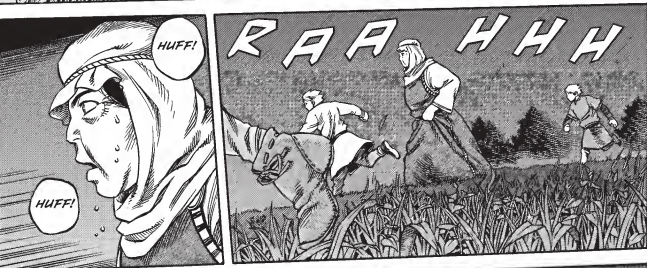
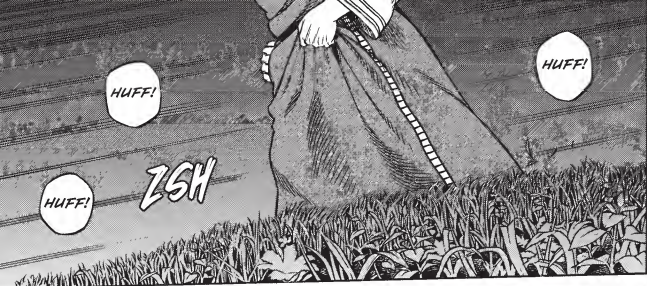
DRUM



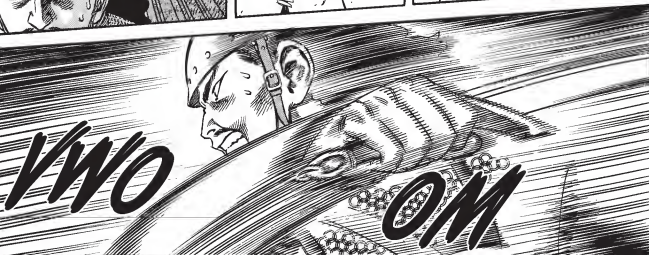
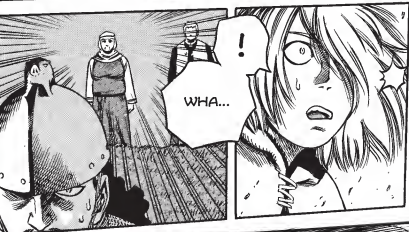
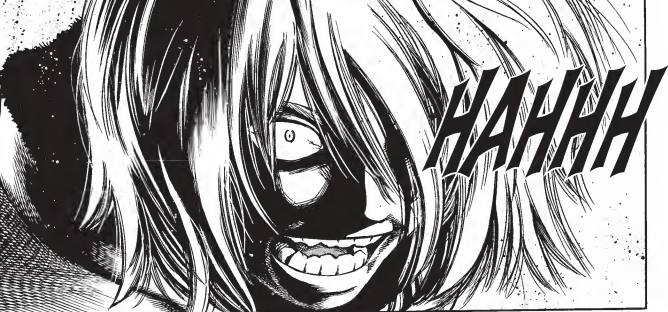
SO IT
WAS
YOU!

SNEAKY
LITTLE
DEMON!

ZSHING



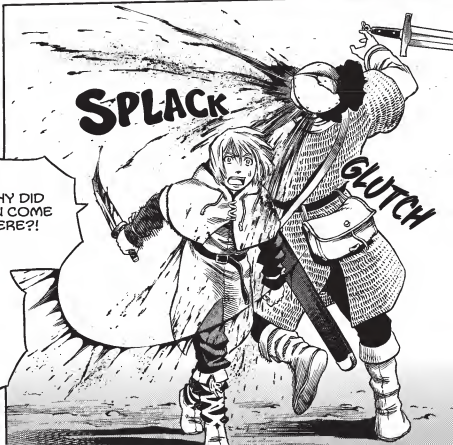


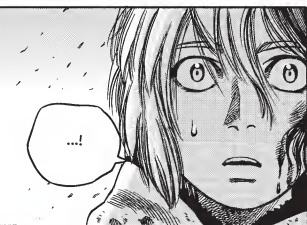
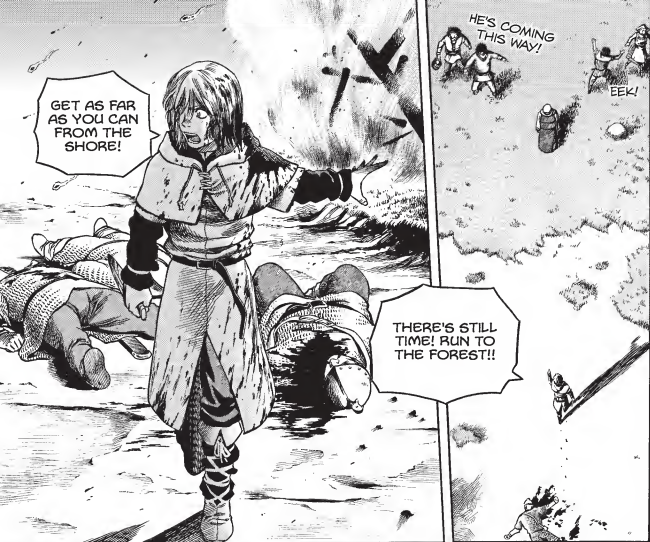


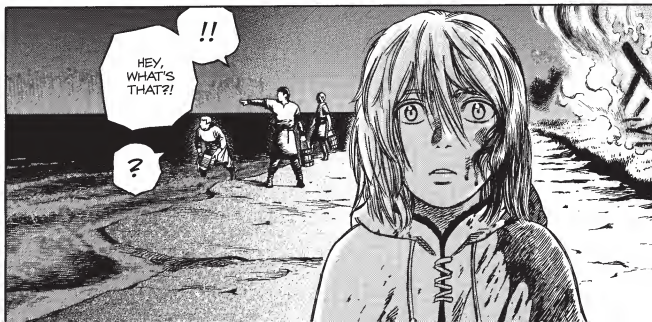
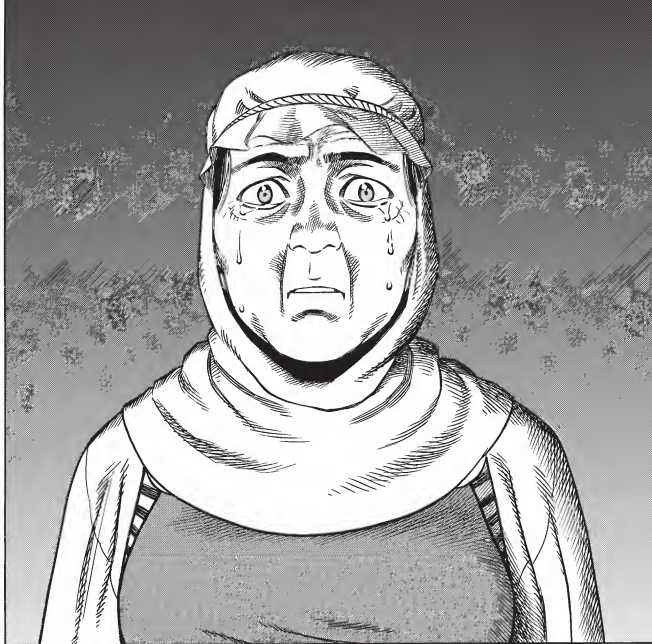


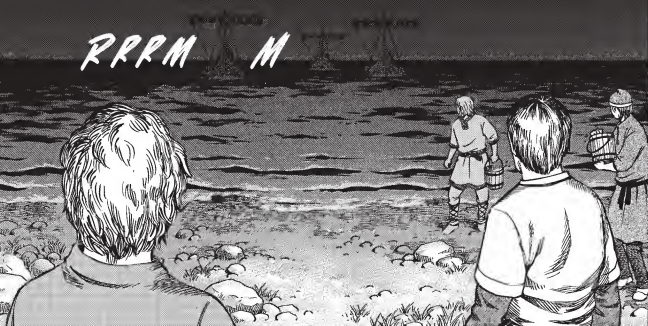
WHY DID
YOU COME
HERE?!

I TOLD YOU TO
RUN, DIDN'T I?!
I EVEN SPOKE
IN ENGLISH!!



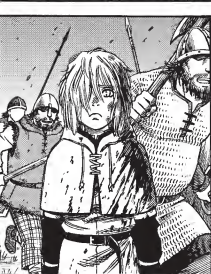
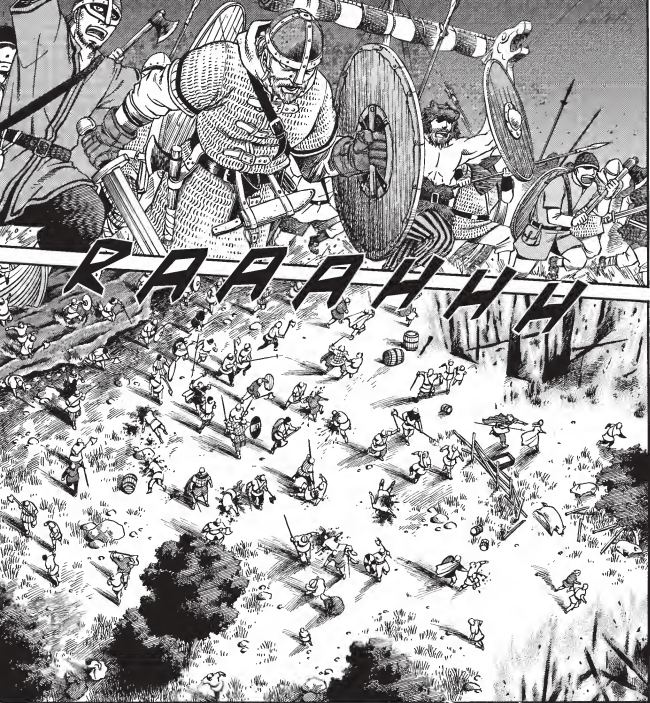


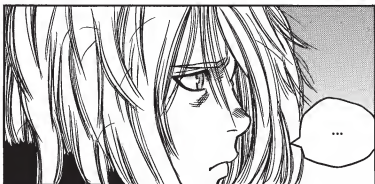
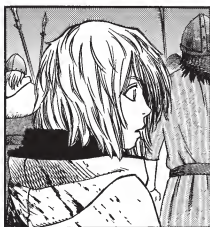


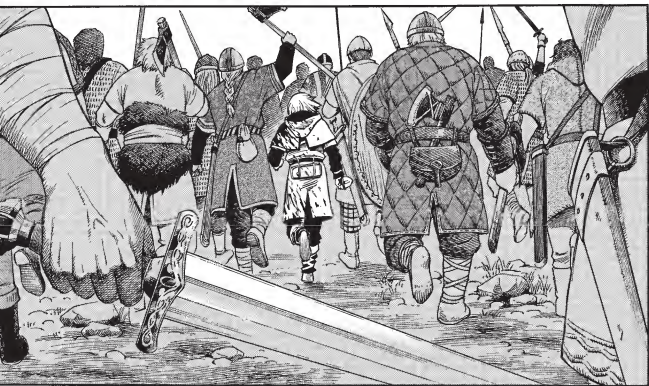
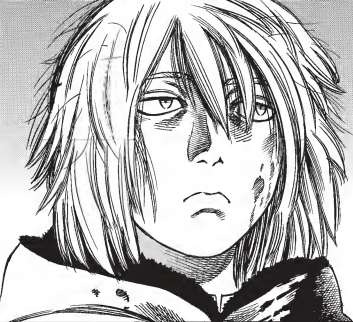




**IT'S
VIKINGS
!!**







**...CHASING
KING
ETHELRED
OF
ENGLAND
INTO EXILE
IN FRANCE.**

**...KING
SWEYN OF
DENMARK
WOULD LEAD
HIS OWN
FLEET IN AN
INVASION...**

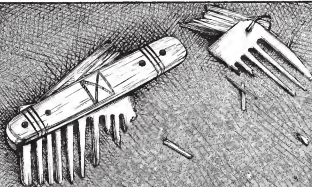
**FIVE
YEARS
LATER,
IN
1013...**



**IN THE
EARLY
11TH
CENTURY...**

**...THE
VIKING
AGE
REACHED
ITS
APEX.**

**THE WAR
WITH
ENGLAND
THAT PAVED
THE WAY
FOR THEIR
REIGN WAS
NEVER
GIVEN A
NAME.**

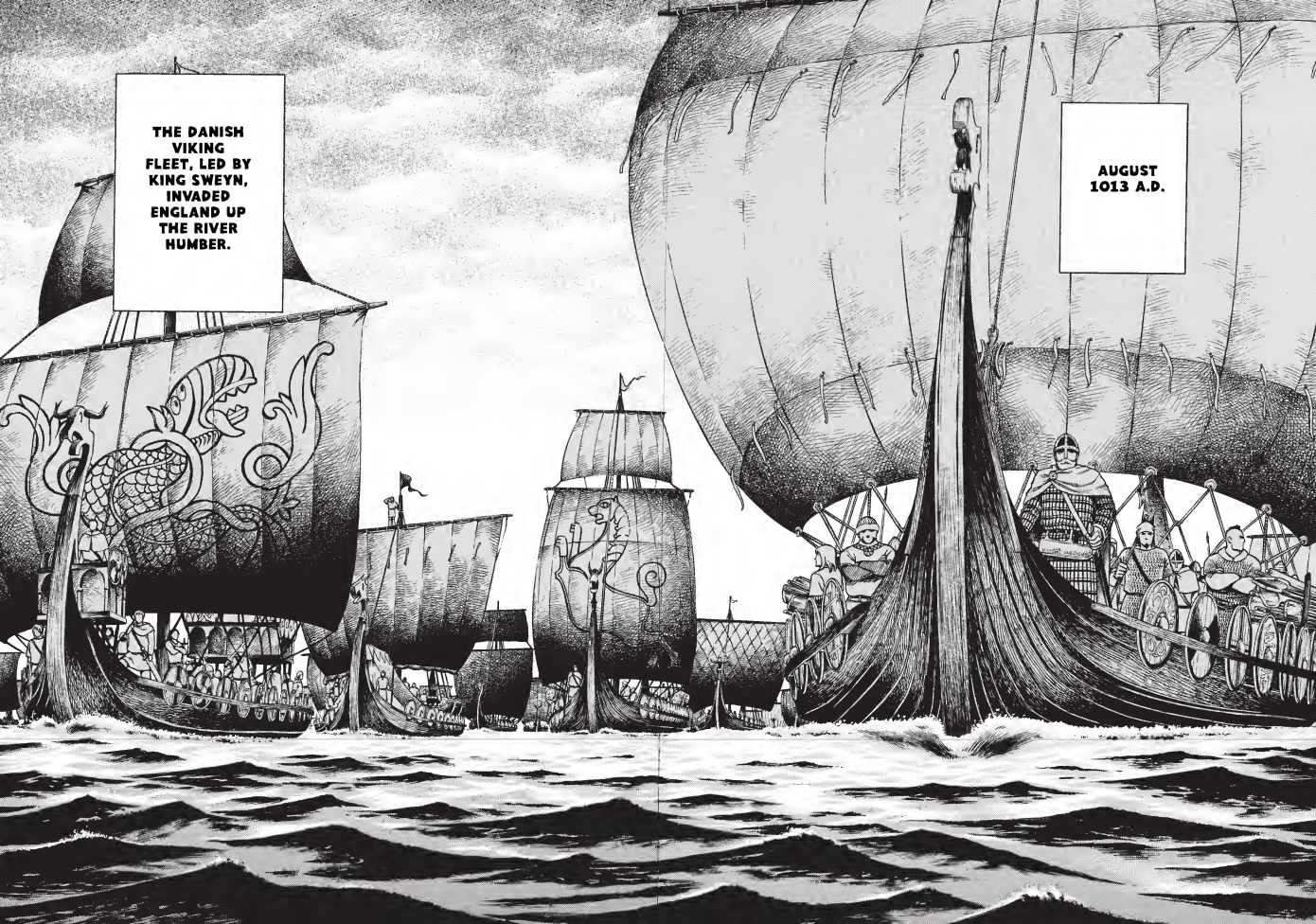


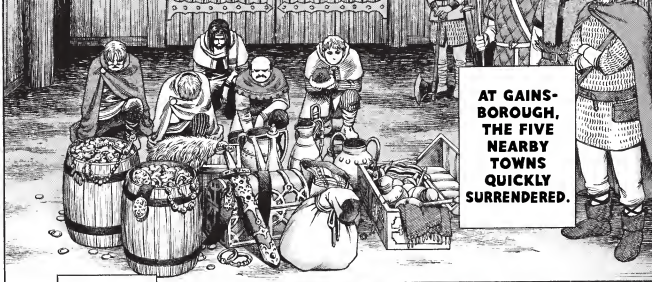
CHAPTER 18: ENGLAND, 1013 A.D.



**THE DANISH
VIKING
FLEET, LED BY
KING SWEYN,
INVADED
ENGLAND UP
THE RIVER
HUMBER.**

**AUGUST
1013 A.D.**

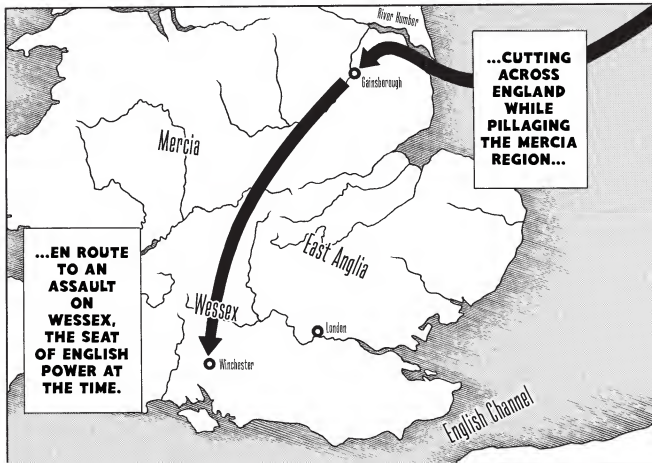




**AT GAINSBOROUGH,
THE FIVE
NEARBY
TOWNS
QUICKLY
SURRENDERED.**



**THE MAIN
FORCE
MARCHED
SOUTH
OVER
LAND...**



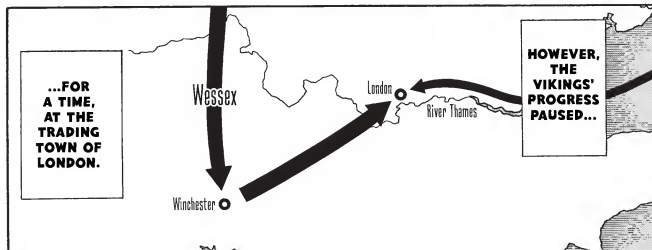
**...CUTTING
ACROSS
ENGLAND
WHILE
PILLAGING
THE MERCIA
REGION...**

**...EN ROUTE
TO AN
ASSAULT
ON
WESSEX,
THE SEAT
OF ENGLISH
POWER AT
THE TIME.**



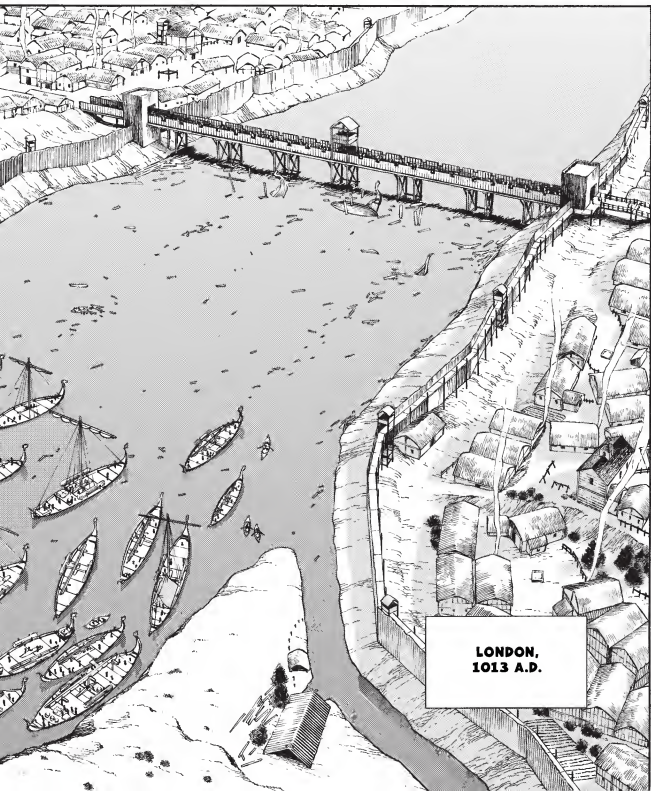
**SINCE THE
INVADING
FORCE
SIMPLY
MARCHED
AROUND THE
FORTIFIED
BURHS...**

**...THE
ENGLISH
SYSTEM OF
FORTRESSES
AND
DEFENSES
FAILED TO
SERVE ITS
PURPOSE.**

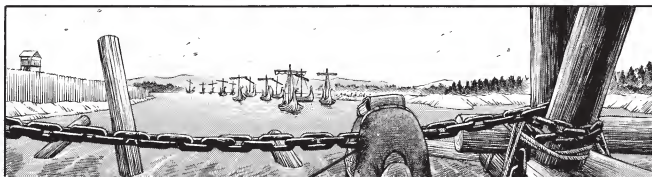
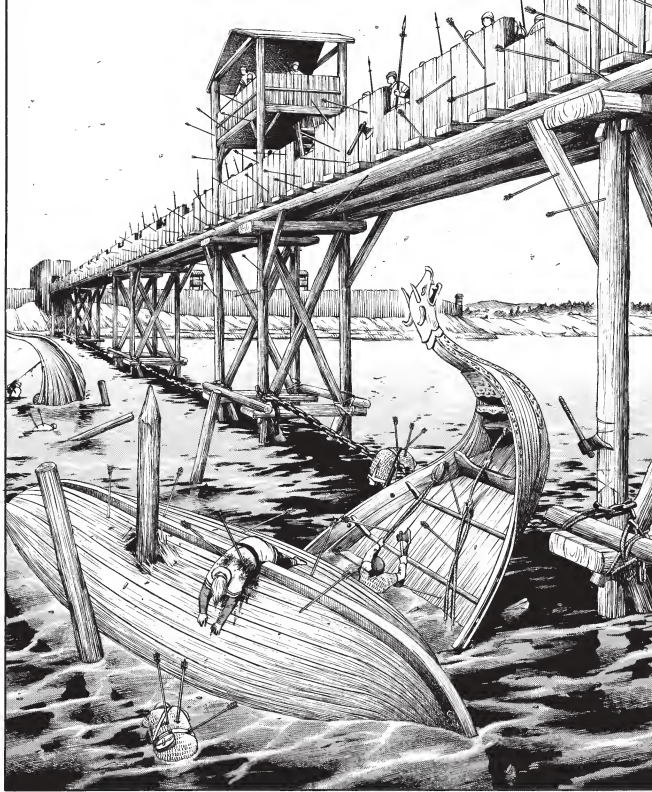


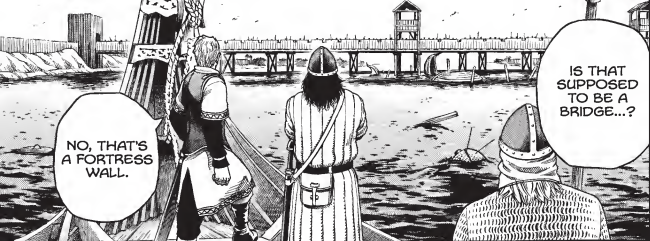
**...FOR
A TIME,
AT THE
TRADING
TOWN OF
LONDON.**

**HOWEVER,
THE
VIKINGS' PROGRESS
PAUSED...**



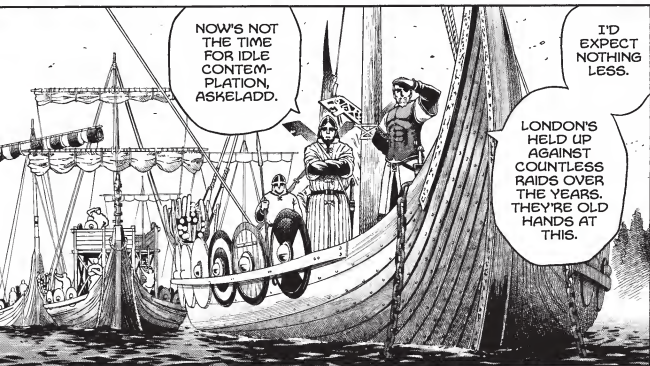
**LONDON,
1013 A.D.**





NO, THAT'S
A FORTRESS
WALL.

IS THAT
SUPPOSED
TO BE A
BRIDGE...?



NOW'S NOT
THE TIME
FOR IDLE
CONTEM-
PLATION,
ASKELODD.

I'D
EXPECT
NOTHING
LESS.

LONDON'S
HELD UP
AGAINST
COUNTLESS
RAIDS OVER
THE YEARS.
THEY'RE OLD
HANDS AT
THIS.

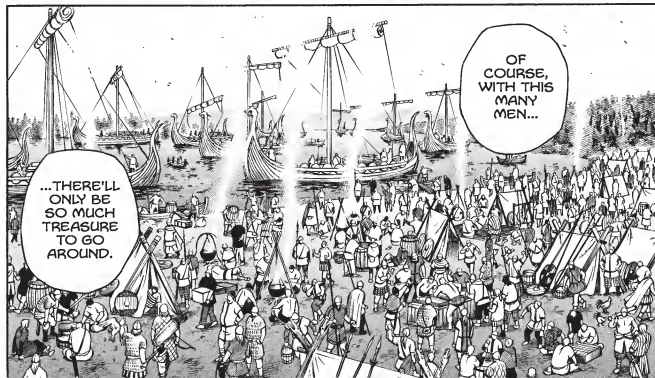


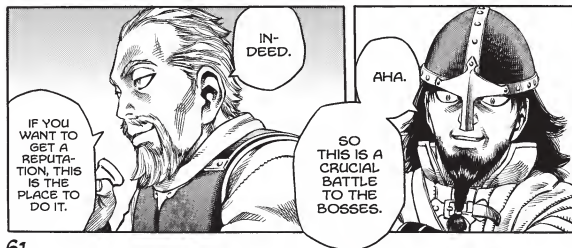
I NEVER
EXPECTED
THORKELL
HIMSELF
TO SIDE
WITH THE
DEFENDERS.

I ONLY
CAME ALONG
ON THIS ONE
BECAUSE YOU
PROMISED
ME AN
"EASY WIN."

THIS'LL
BE A
TOUGH
NUT TO
CRACK.

SORRY,
BJORN.





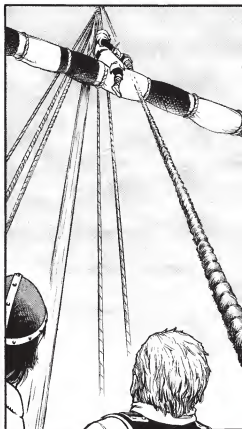


NO PLOTS
AS SUCH,
BUT
THERE IS
SOME-
THING...

HMM.

GOT ANY
CLEVER
PLOTS
UP YOUR
SLEEVE?

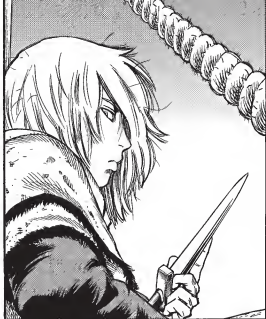
THOR-
FINN!

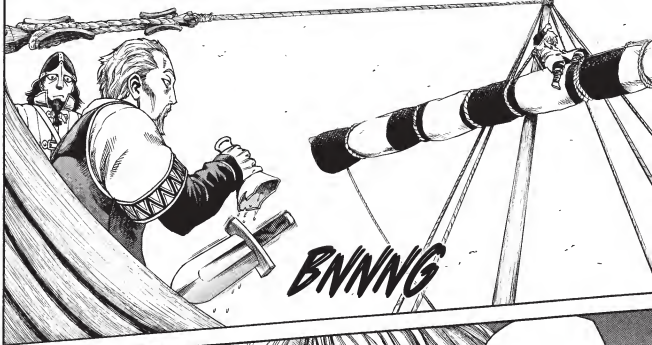


GET ME
THORKELL'S
HEAD.

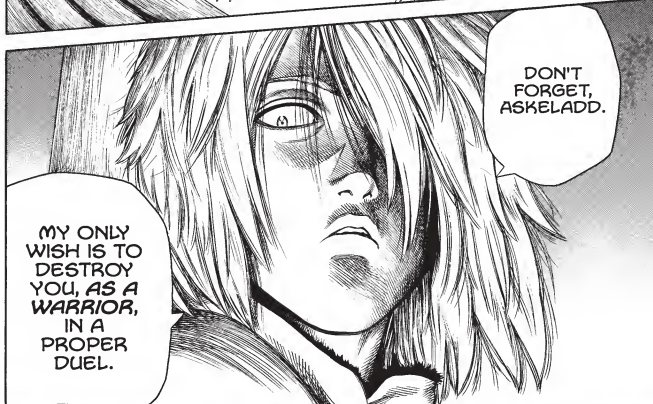
TIME TO
GO TO
WORK.





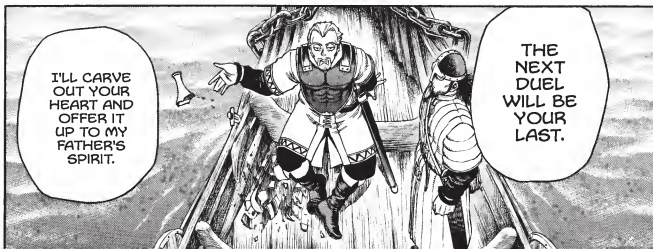


BNNNG



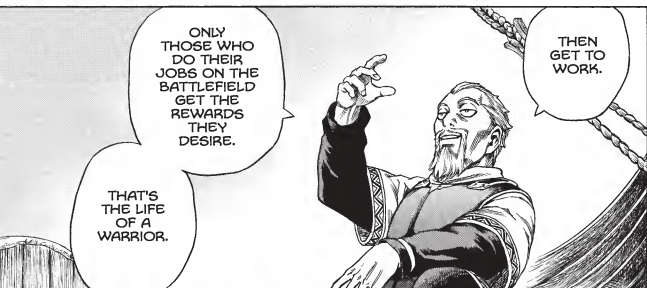
DON'T
FORGET,
ASKELADD.

MY ONLY
WISH IS TO
DESTROY
YOU, AS A
WARRIOR,
IN A
PROPER
DUEL.



I'LL CARVE
OUT YOUR
HEART AND
OFFER IT
UP TO MY
FATHER'S
SPIRIT.

THE
NEXT
DUEL
WILL BE
YOUR
LAST.



ONLY
THOSE WHO
DO THEIR
JOBS ON THE
BATTLEFIELD
GET THE
REWARDS
THEY
DESIRE.

THEN
GET TO
WORK.

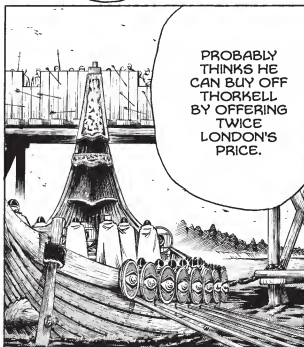
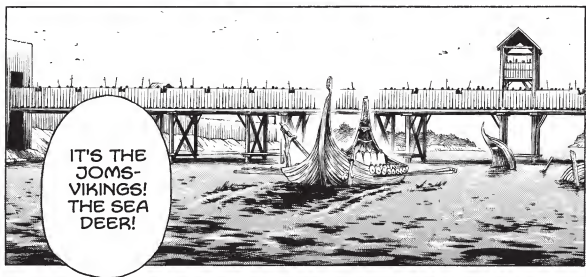
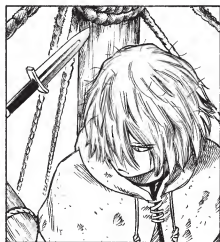
THAT'S
THE LIFE
OF A
WARRIOR.

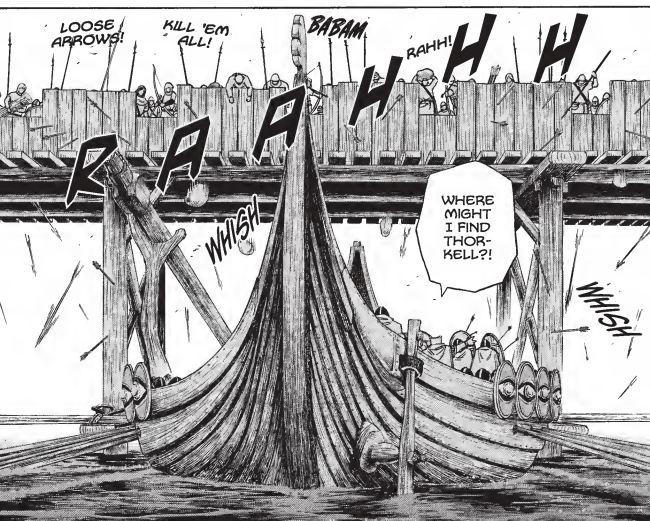
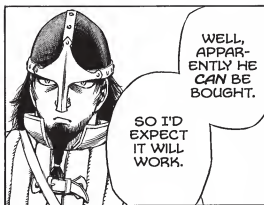


BUT IF
YOU
CAN KILL
THORKELL...

MY HEAD
WON'T
COME
CHEAP,
BOY.

...I'LL GIVE
YOU THAT
DUEL, AND
ANYTHING
ELSE YOU
WANT.







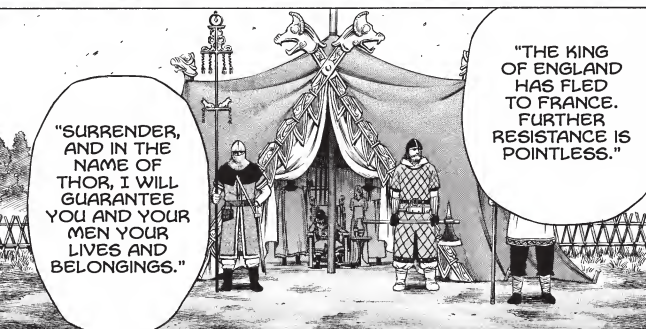
AHOY!
IT'S
BEEN A
LONG
TIME,
FLOKI!

YOU'RE
LOOKING
WELL!



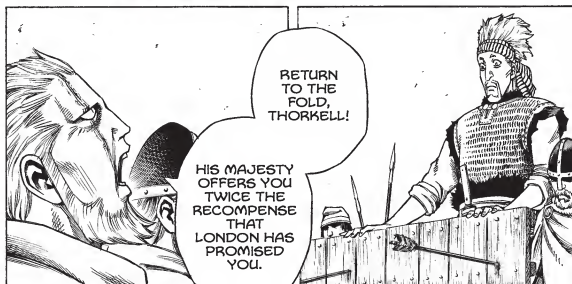
MY LIEGE,
KING
SWEYN, HAS
SENT ME
TO DELIVER
HIS WORDS!

ENOUGH
PLEASAN-
TRIES!



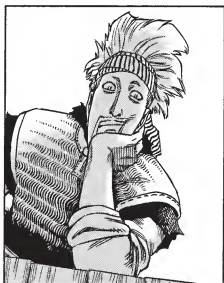
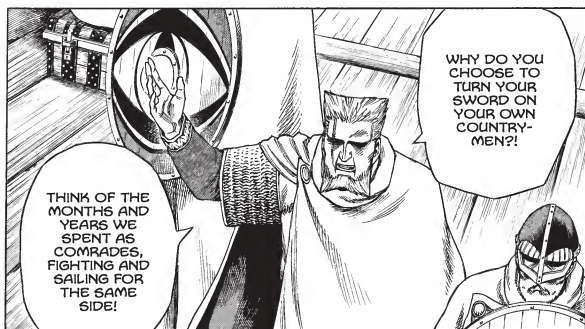
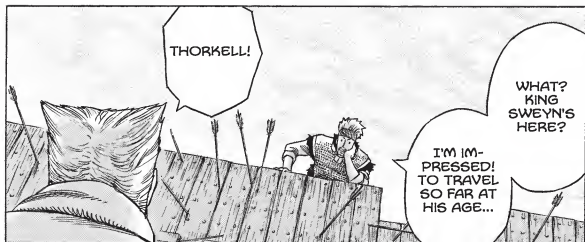
"SURRENDER,
AND IN THE
NAME OF
THOR, I WILL
GUARANTEE
YOU AND YOUR
MEN YOUR
LIVES AND
BELONGINGS."

"THE KING
OF ENGLAND
HAS FLED
TO FRANCE.
FURTHER
RESISTANCE IS
POINTLESS."



RETURN
TO THE
FOLD,
THORKELL!

HIS MAJESTY
OFFERS YOU
TWICE THE
RECOMPENSE
THAT
LONDON HAS
PROMISED
YOU.





WRONG
SIDE
OF HIS-
TORY...



I FOUGHT
THESE
ENGLISHMEN
UP UNTIL
LAST YEAR,
SO I KNOW
WHAT THEY'RE
WORTH..

THEY'RE A
SHOCKINGLY
WEAK LOT...

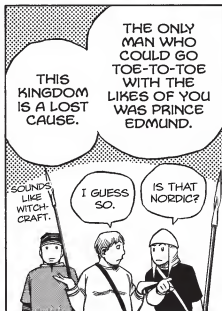


YES.

WHAT
I'M SAYING
IS...



AHH!
THEN...



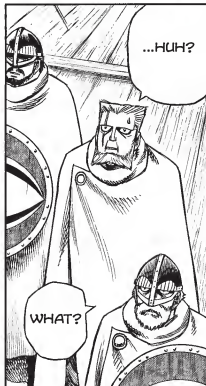
THIS
KINGDOM
IS A LOST
CAUSE.

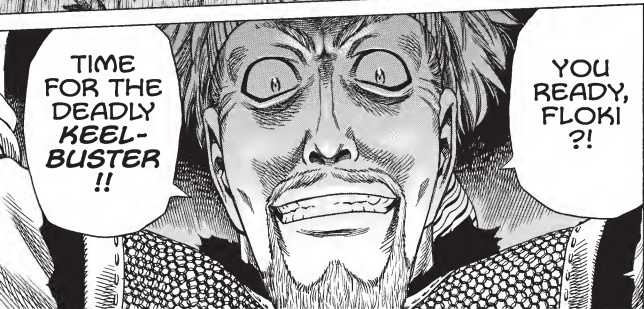
THE ONLY
MAN WHO
COULD GO
TOE-TO-TOE
WITH THE
LIKES OF YOU
WAS PRINCE
EDMUND.

SOUNDS
LIKE
WITCH-
CRAFT.

I GUESS
SO.

IS THAT
NORDIC?





HARD
LAR-
BOARD,
YOU
FOOLS!!

E-
EVADE
!!

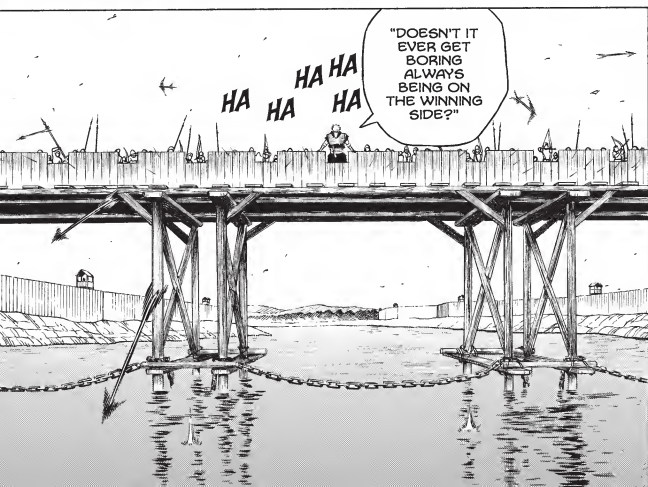
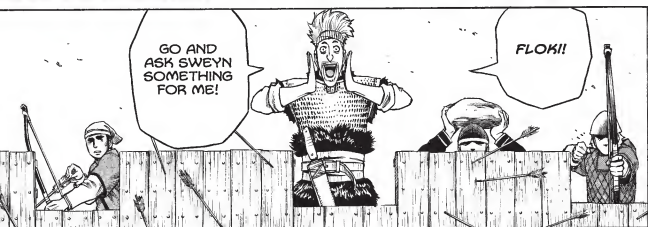
DSHAAAA

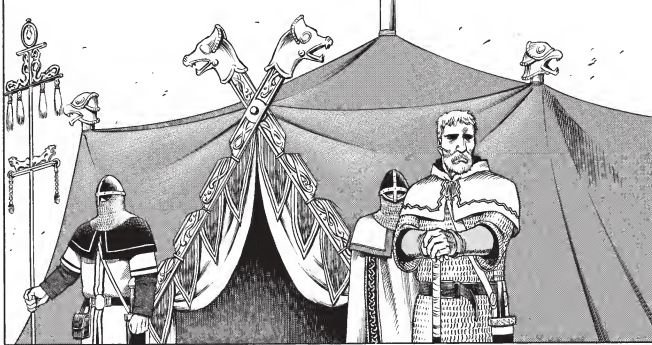
EEP!

AAAH!

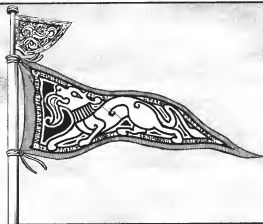
NM

NF





HE
SHOWED
NO SIGNS
OF BEING
SWAYED
BY OUR
OFFER.

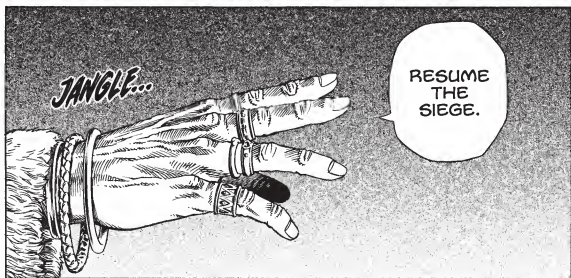
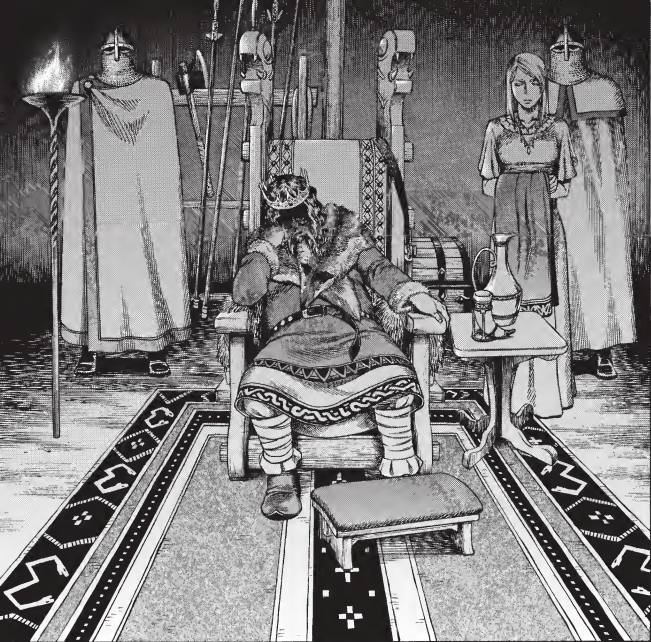


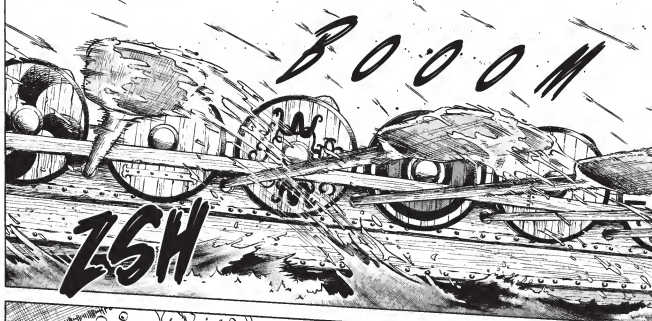
THEN,
MAJES-
TY...

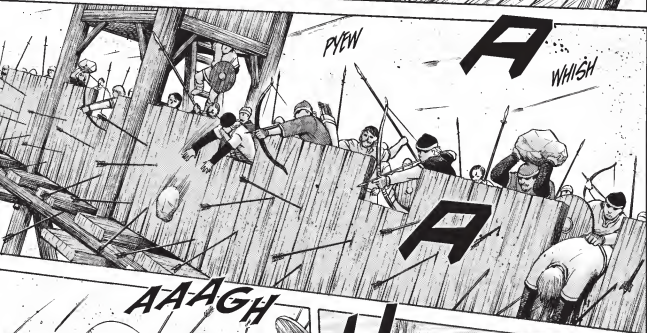
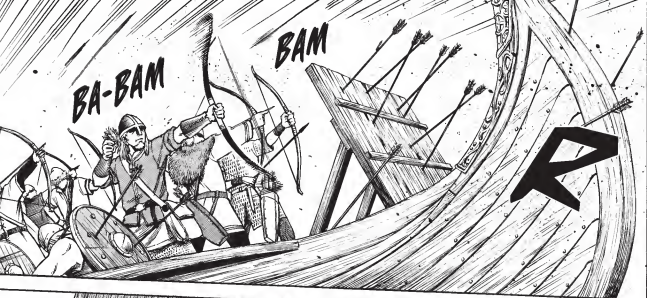
WHAT
SHALL
WE
DO...?

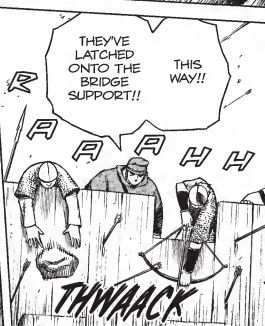
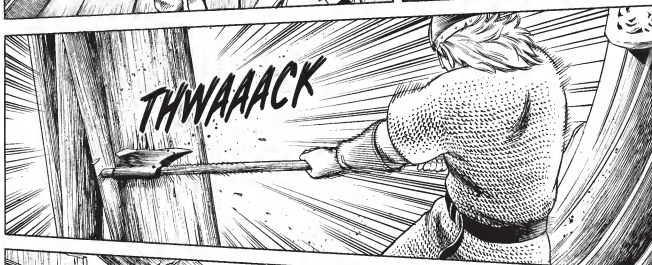
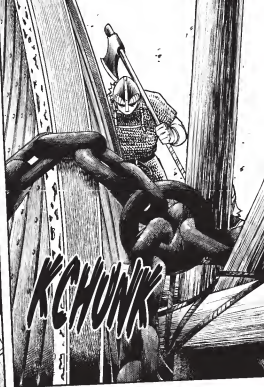
YOUR
EFFORTS
ARE
APPRE-
CIATED.

I
SEE.











IDOM BOOM IDUMM

AAGH!

WAAH!

EEP!



WUM



OOOH

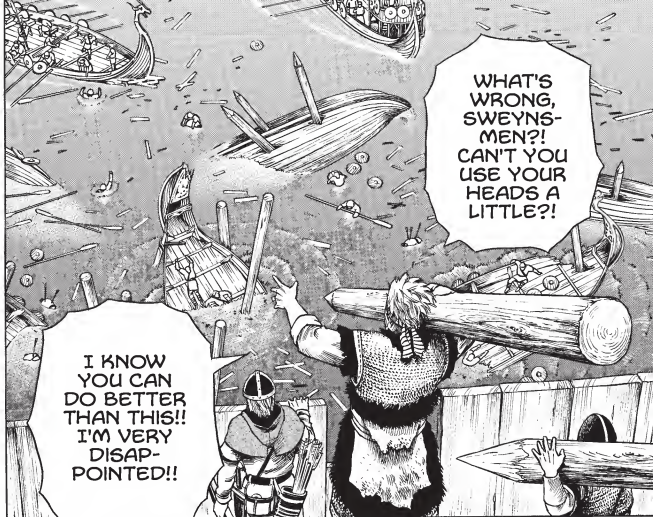
BUT AMAZ-
ING!

A LITTLE
ON-THE-
NOSE.

HOW'D
YOU LIKE
THAT?!
THAT
WAS MY
SPECIAL,
ER...

LOG-
DROPPER
!!

GA HA HA HA
HA!



WHAT'S
WRONG,
SWEYNS-
MEN?!
CAN'T YOU
USE YOUR
HEADS A
LITTLE?!

I KNOW
YOU CAN
DO BETTER
THAN THIS!!
I'M VERY
DISAP-
POINTED!!

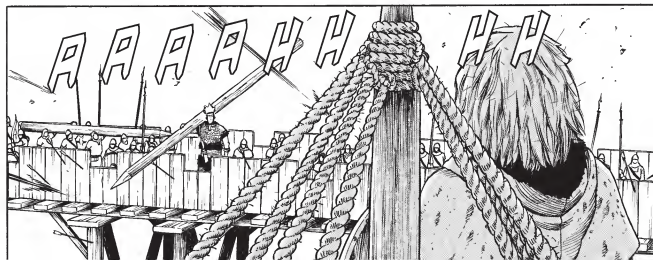


RAHH

HMM?

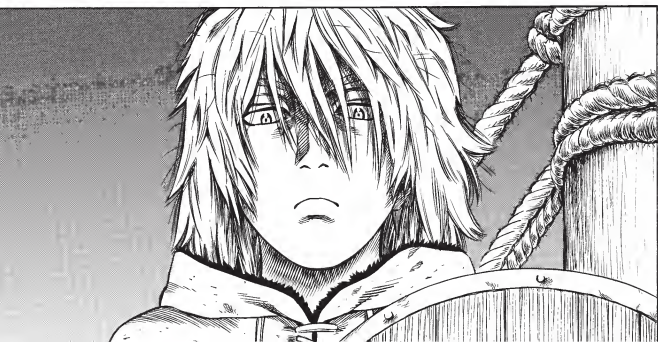
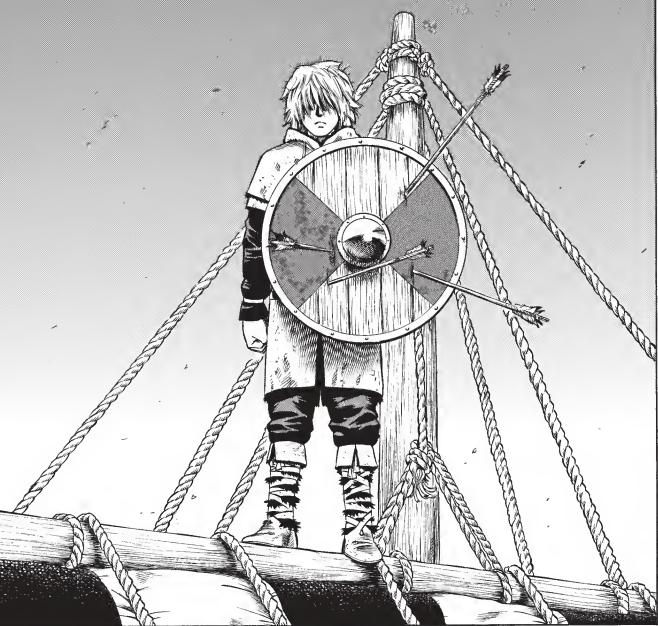
AT THIS
RATE, IT'LL BE
A HUNDRED
YEARS BEFORE
LONDON BRIDGE
COMES FALLING
D-

H



RAHH

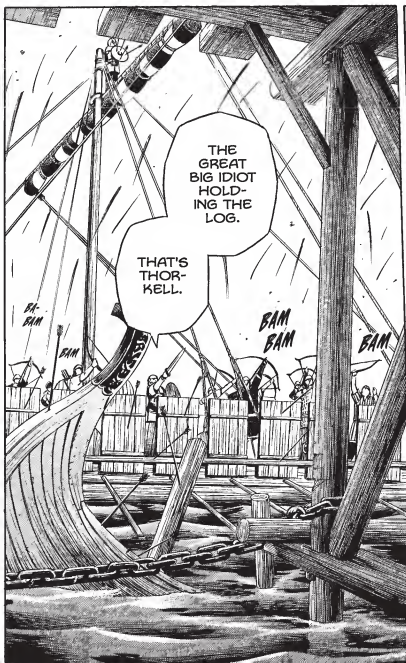
HH





FINALLY,
SOME-
ONE WHO
LOOKS
LIKE A BIT
OF FUN!

HA-
HA!
♪

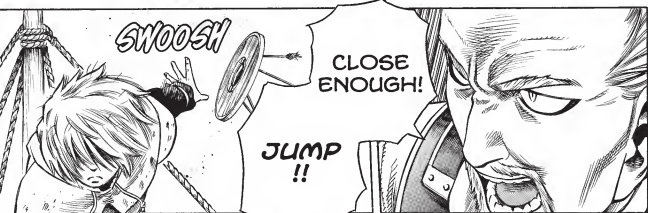


THE
GREAT
BIG IDIOT
HOLD-
ING THE
LOG.

THAT'S
THOR-
KELL.



THORFINN,
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?!



IF HE'S
FOOLISH
ENOUGH
TO
CHARGE
ME...

A

H

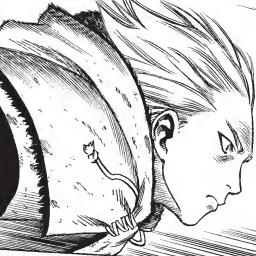
H

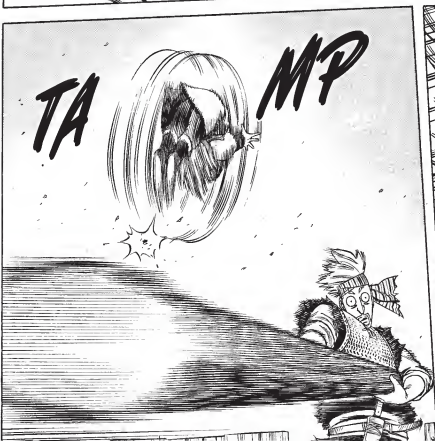
STAY
BACK,
MEN!

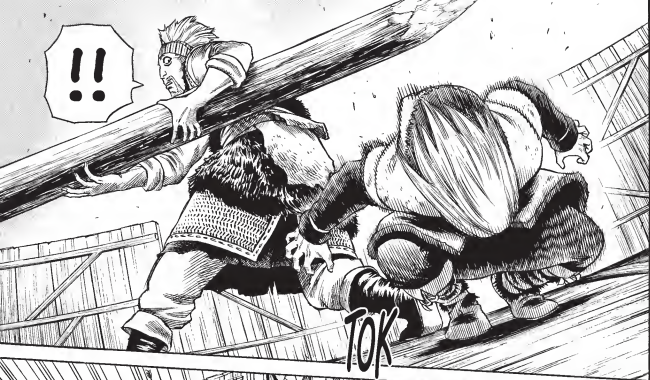


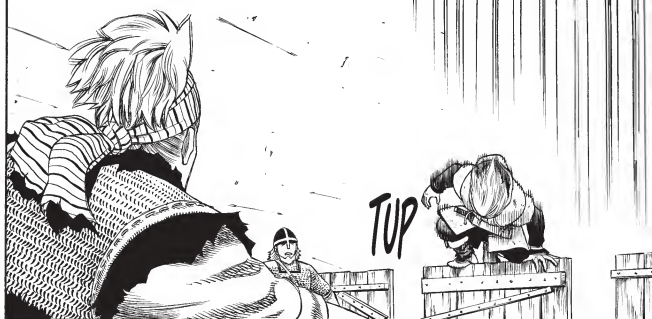
...I'LL
TAKE
HIM
DOWN
!!

TRMP









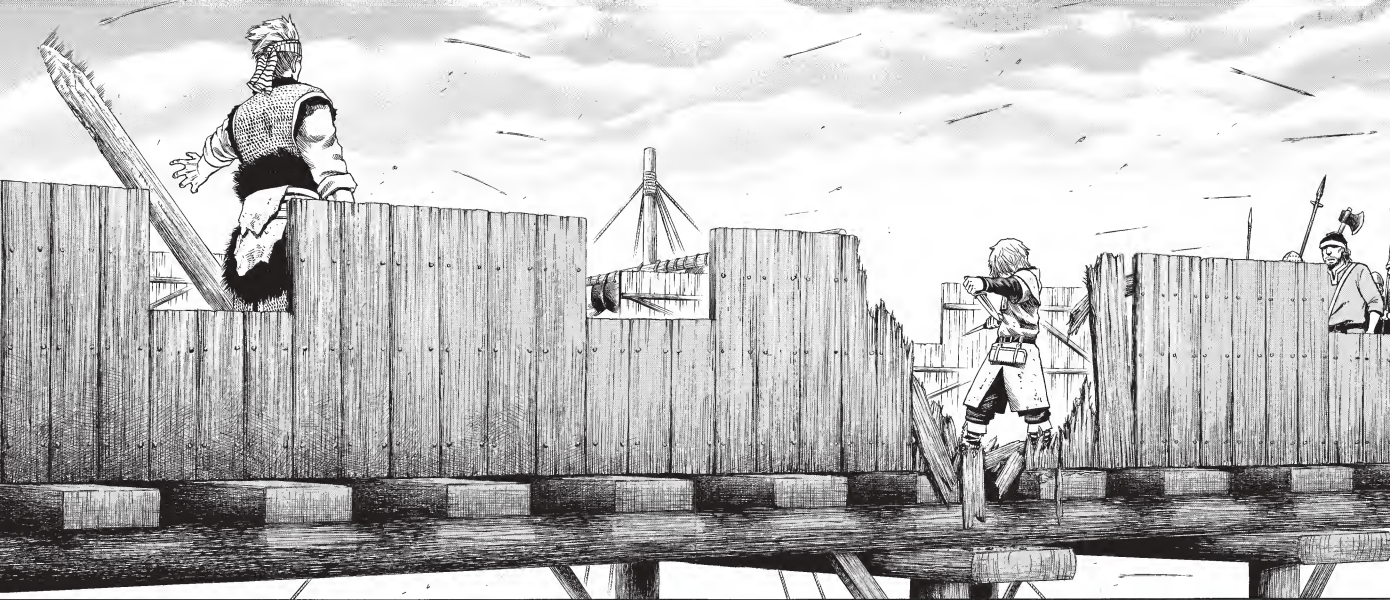
NOT
BAD,
YOUNG
ONE.



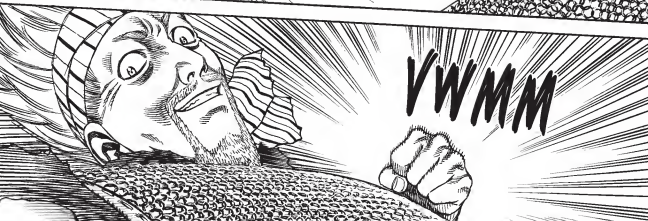
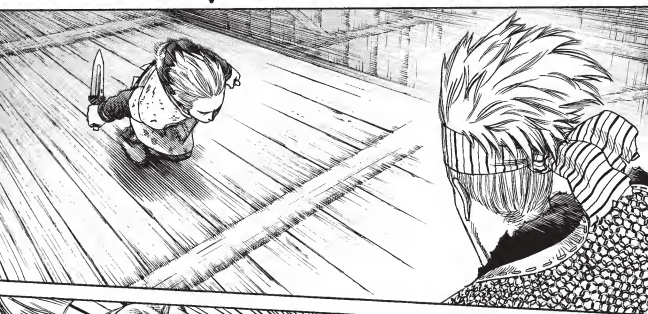
...HAHH...

CHAPTER 19: THE BATTLE OF LONDON BRIDGE

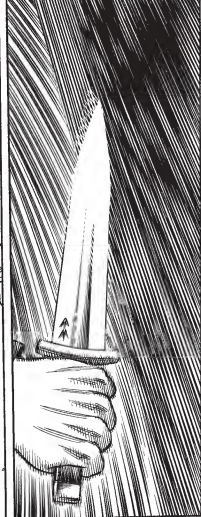












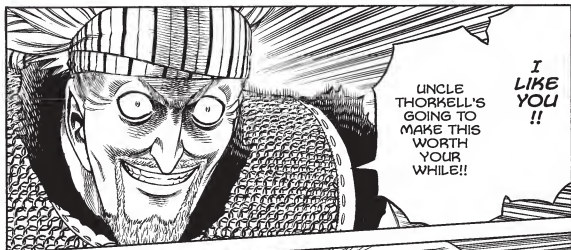


WITH
THAT
BODY
AND HIS
FISTS,
IT'S NO
WONDER
HE'S
COCKY...

ONE
SOLID
BLOW
WOULD
KILL
ME...

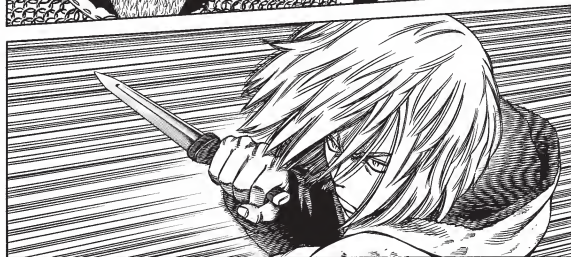


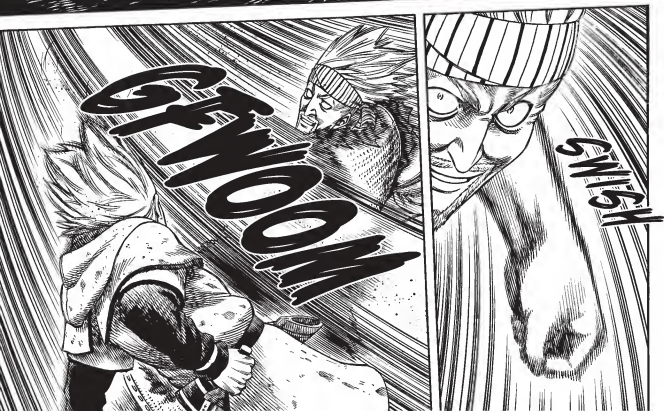
HUFF

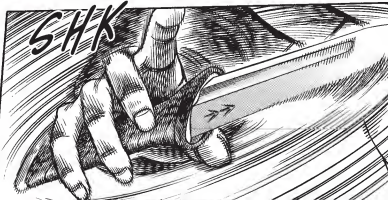
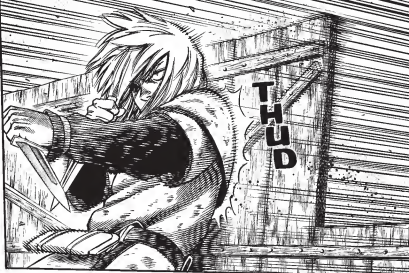


UNCLE
THORKELL'S
GOING TO
MAKE THIS
WORTH
YOUR
WHILE!!

I
LIKE
YOU
!!

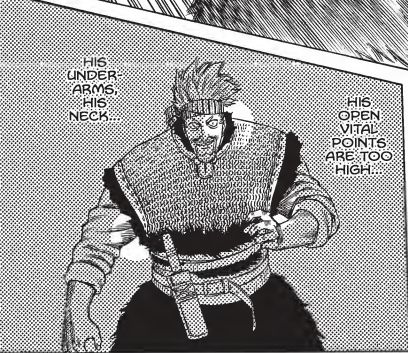








HO!
CLOSE
ONE.



HIS
UNDER-
ARMS,
HIS
NECK...

HIS
OPEN
VITAL
POINTS
ARE TOO
HIGH...



TSK!

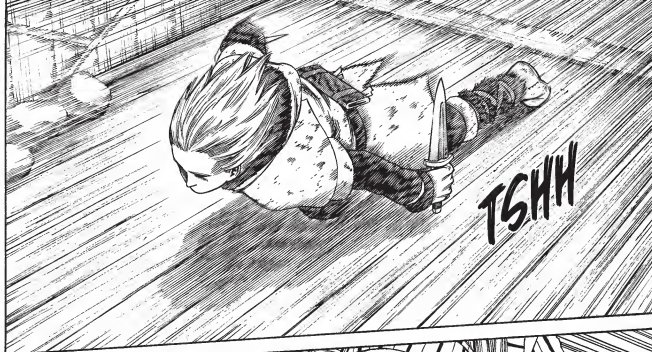
ZIP

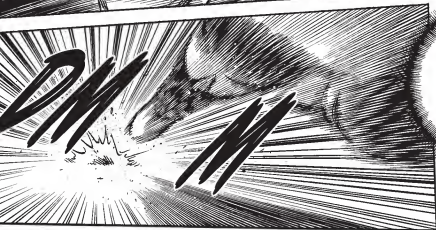
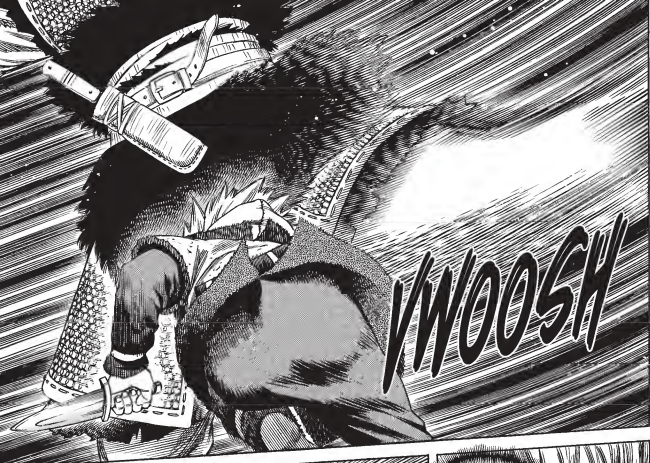


THAT'S
IT!

...

I CAN'T
REACH
HIM!



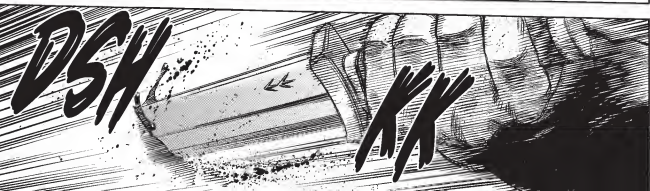
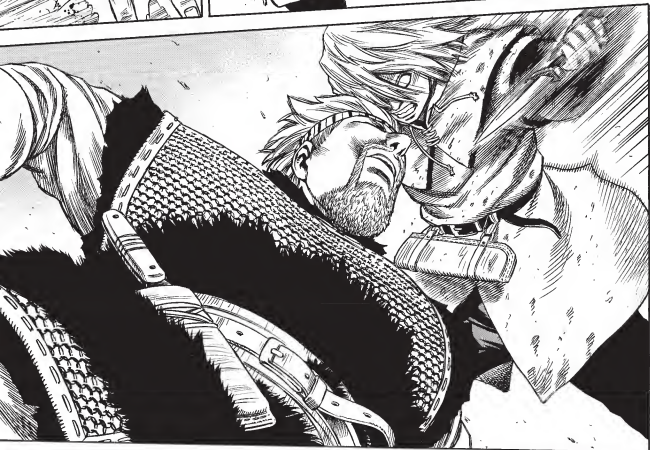
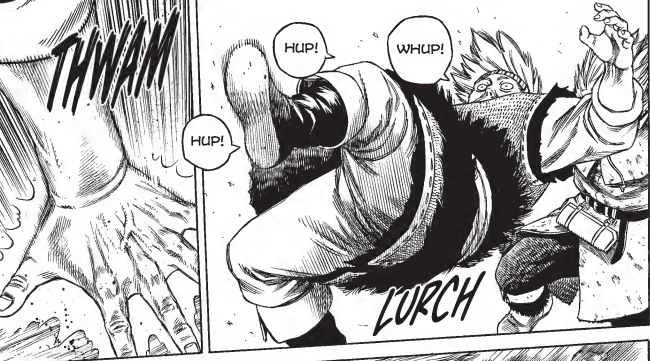


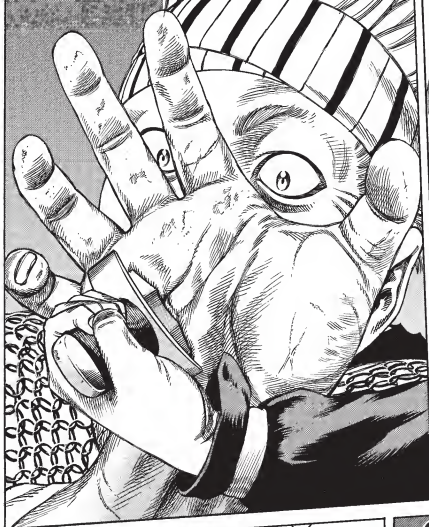


THROUGH
MY
LEGS...

AH—

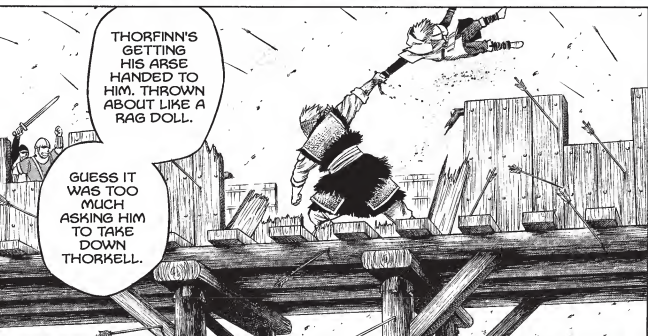
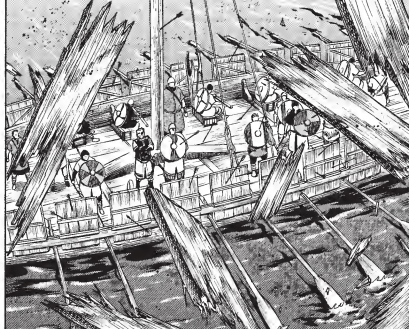


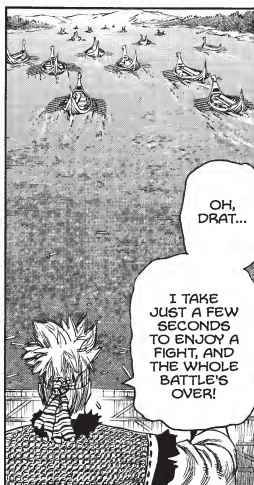


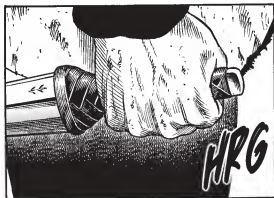


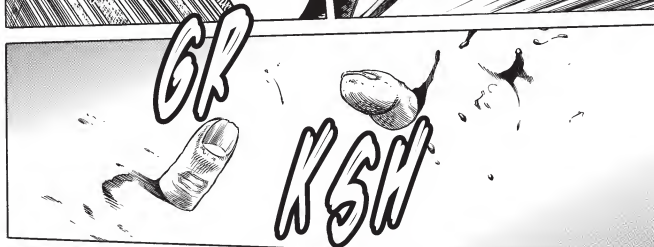


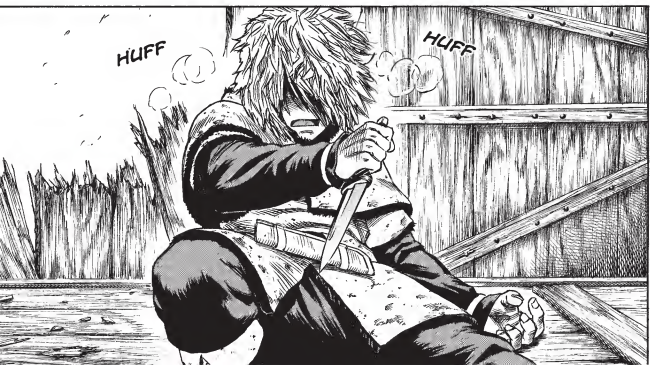
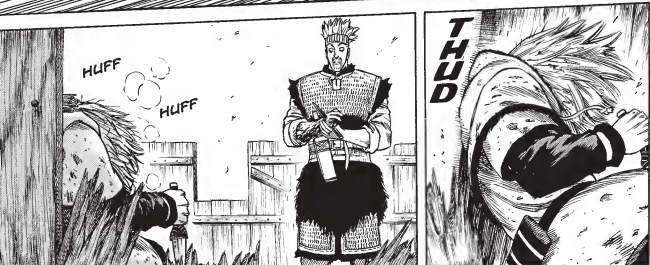
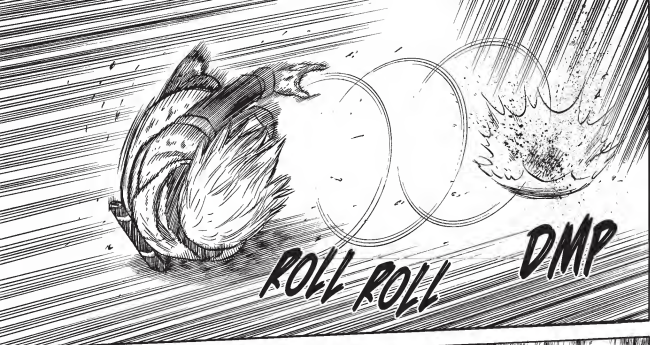


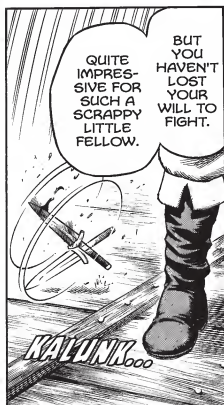
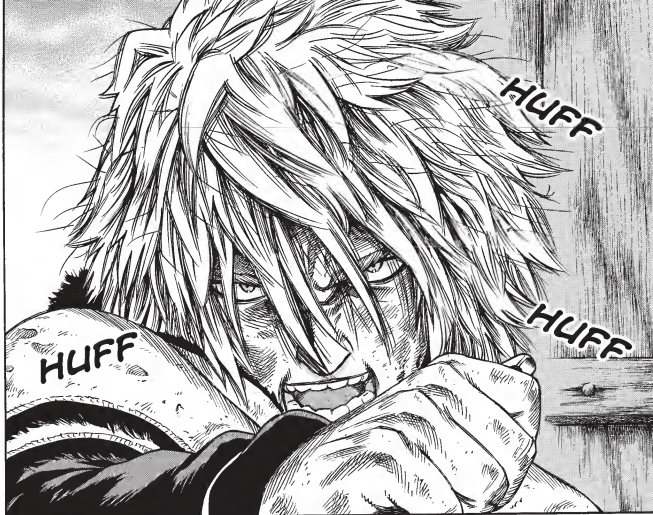


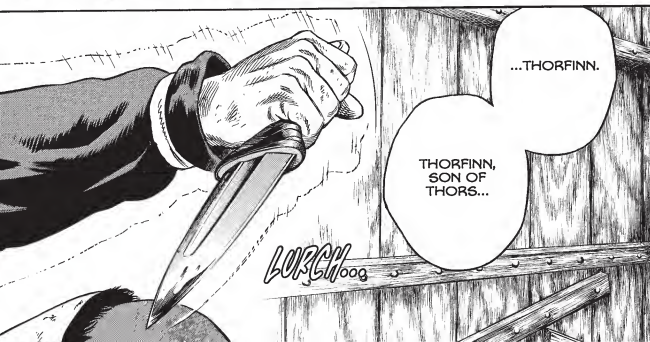


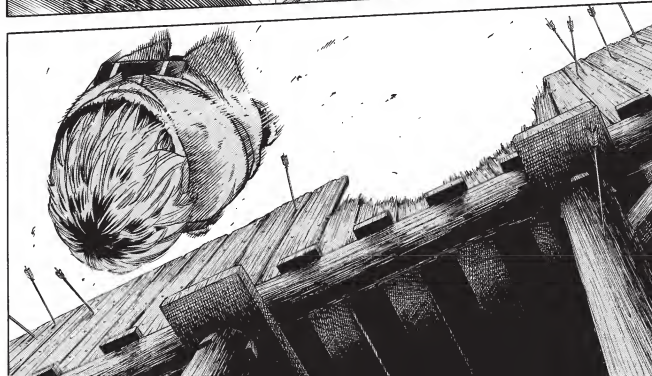














THERE
HE
GOES...

AWW...

WURCH

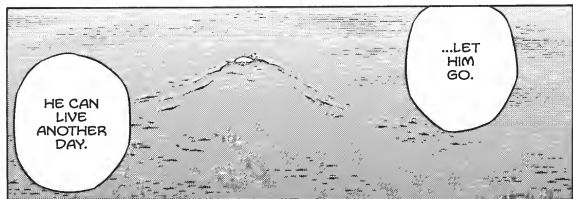


KBLOOSH



WHAT'S
THE CALL,
CAPTAIN?
HE'S
GETTING
AWAY.

SHOULD
WE
SHOOT?



HE CAN
LIVE
ANOTHER
DAY.

...LET
HIM
GO.



WE
SHOULD
DO IT
AGAIN!

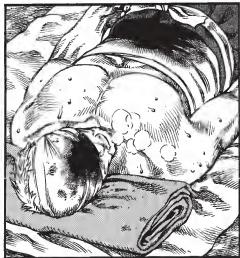
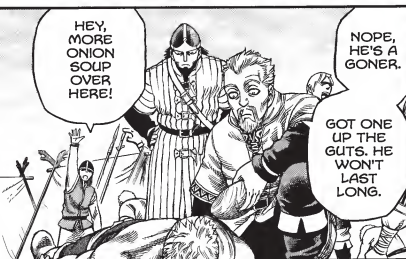
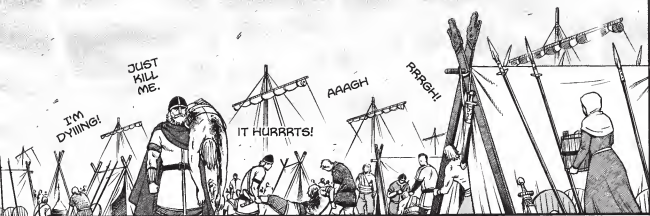
I
ENJOYED
OUR
BATTLE!

AHOY,
WARRIOR
THORFINN!

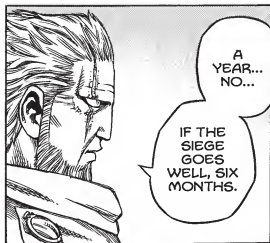


WE'LL
FINISH
IT FOR
GOOD
NEXT
TIME!

THAT'S
A
PROMISE,
YOU
HEAR?!

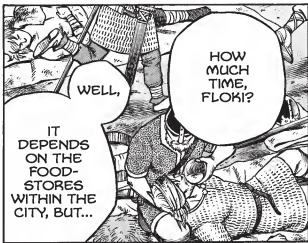






A
YEAR...
NO...

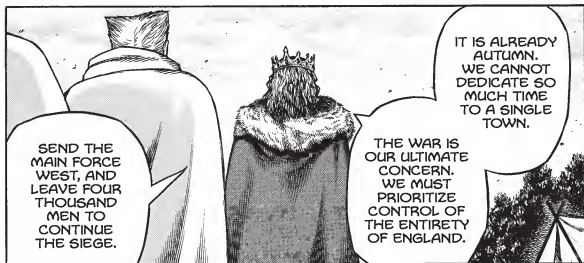
IF THE
SIEGE
GOES
WELL, SIX
MONTHS.



HOW
MUCH
TIME,
FLOKI?

WELL,

IT
DEPENDS
ON THE
FOOD-
STORES
WITHIN THE
CITY, BUT...



SEND THE
MAIN FORCE
WEST, AND
LEAVE FOUR
THOUSAND
MEN TO
CONTINUE
THE SIEGE.

IT IS ALREADY
AUTUMN.
WE CANNOT
DEDICATE SO
MUCH TIME
TO A SINGLE
TOWN.

THE WAR IS
OUR ULTIMATE
CONCERN.
WE MUST
PRIORITIZE
CONTROL OF
THE ENTIRETY
OF ENGLAND.

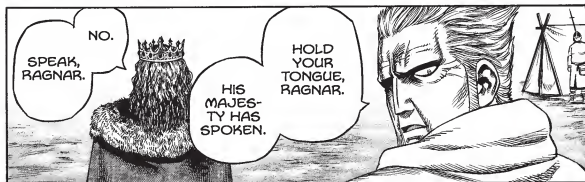


I WILL
LEAVE IT
TO MY
SON,
CANUTE.

IT WILL BE
A GOOD
OPPORTUNITY
TO MAKE
A MAN OF
HIM.

I WILL
LEAVE
THE SIEGE
IN THE
HANDS
OF...AH,
YES...

AS YOU
COMMAND,
YOUR
MAJESTY...





I FEAR
THE
BURDEN...

...MIGHT
BE TOO
GREAT
FOR THE
PRINCE...

IF OUR ENTIRE
FORCE COULD
NOT DEFEAT
THAT INFERNAL
THORKELL, HOW
ARE WE TO
SUCCEED WITH
ONE-FIFTH THE
STRENGTH?



HE HAS
GROWN TOO
SOFT FOR
A MAN OF
HIS STATION.
PERHAPS IT IS
HIS CHRISTIAN
UPBRINGING...

PRECISELY
WHY HE
MUST CARRY
IT. I DO HIM
NO FAVOR IN
CODDLING
HIM.



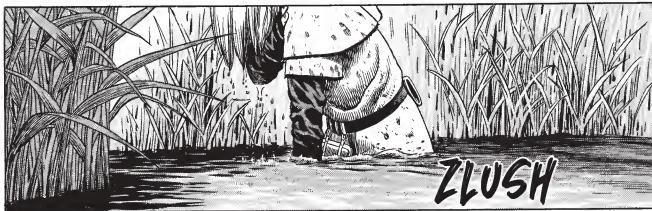
...AS...

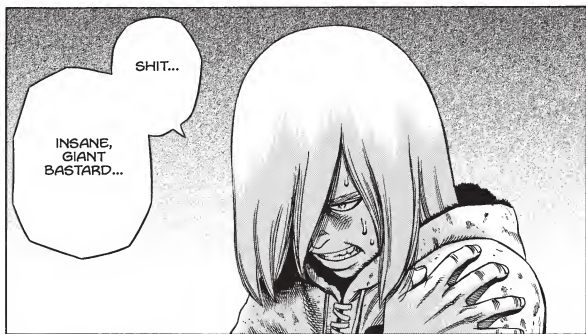
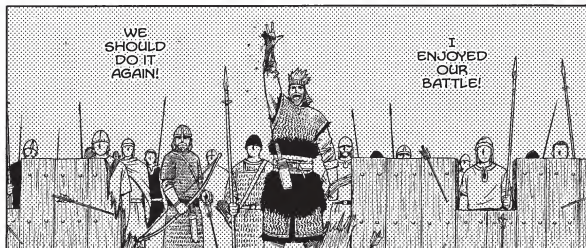
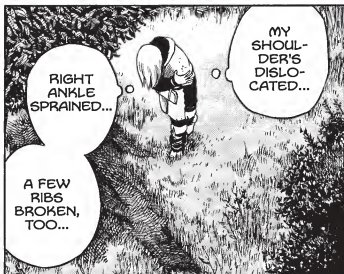
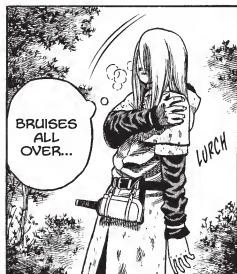
AS YOU
WISH,
MAJESTY...

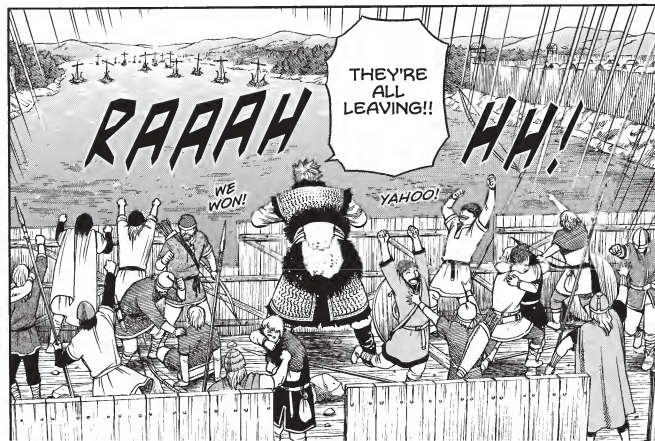
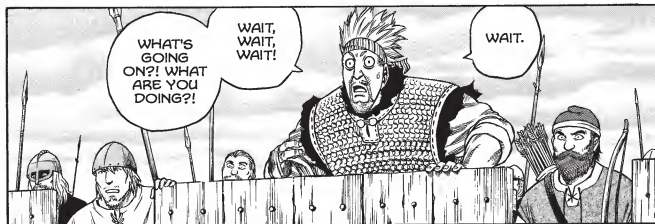
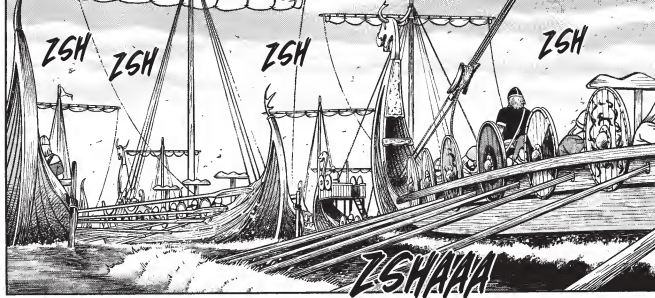


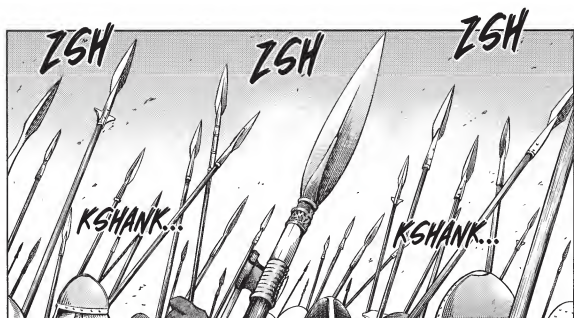
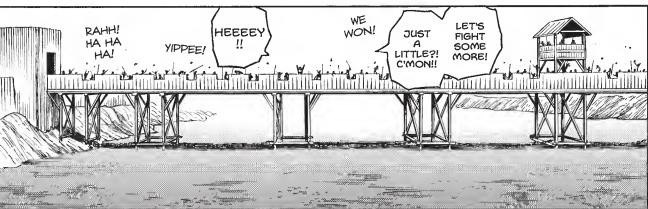
YOU
BEAR SOME
RESPONSIBILITY
AS HIS
ATTENDANT,
AS WELL,
RAGNAR.

YOU WILL BE
SECOND-IN-
COMMAND
OF THE
SIEGE FORCE.
ADVISE
CANUTE
WELL.







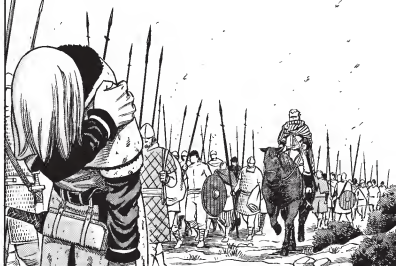






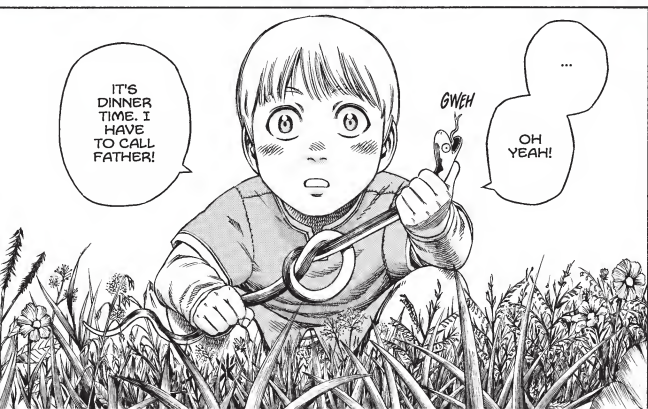
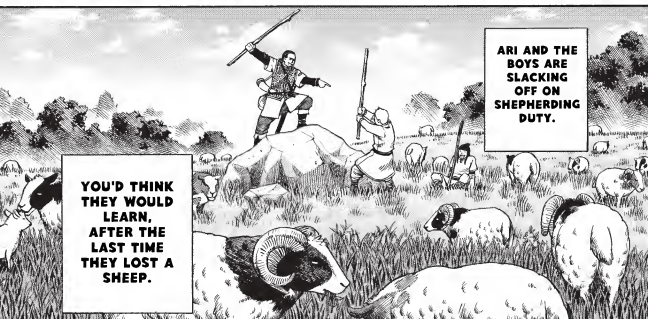


HMPH.



WHAT'S
SO FUN
ABOUT
WAR?!

FUCKING
MADMEN,
EVERY
LAST
ONE...



CHAPTER 20: RAGNAROK



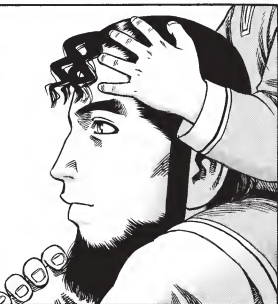


HA HA HA!

THAT
SOUNDS
LIKE OUR
YLVA.

YLVA SAYS
IT'S A PAIN
BECAUSE
WE CAN'T
GET ANY
SLAVES
HERE.

BUT
WE'VE
NEVER
HAD
SLAVES
BEFORE!



I LIKE
IT
HERE.

AND
MOTHER'S
BEEN FEELING
MUCH
BETTER
SINCE WE
CAME.



YEP!

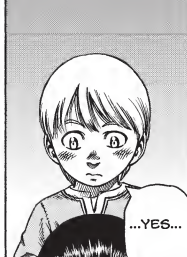
YOU
ARE
MY
SON.

YOU
HAVE TO
PROTECT
YOUR
MOTHER
AND SISTER.
UNDERSTAND?



THOR-
FINN...

WHAT?



...YES...



DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?

IT'S A
WONDERFUL
THING TO
HAVE SOME-
ONE WAITING
FOR YOU.

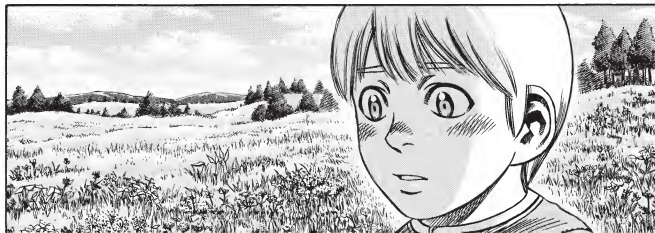
THEY'RE
BOTH
WAITING
FOR YOU
TO COME
HOME.

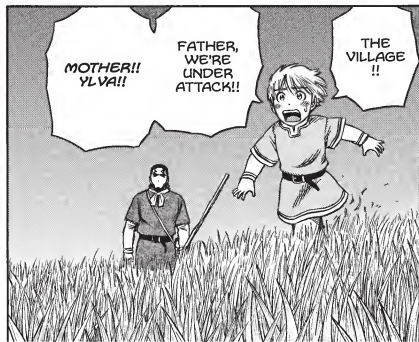
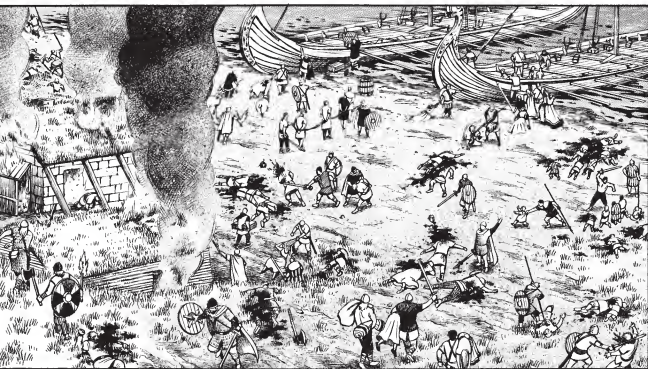
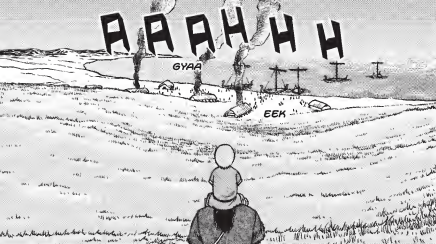


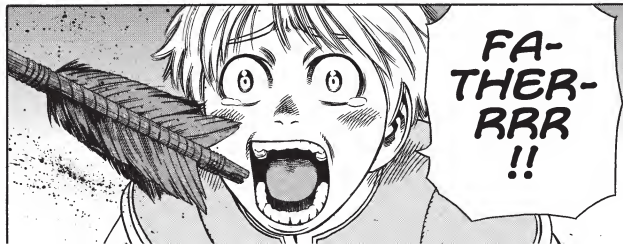
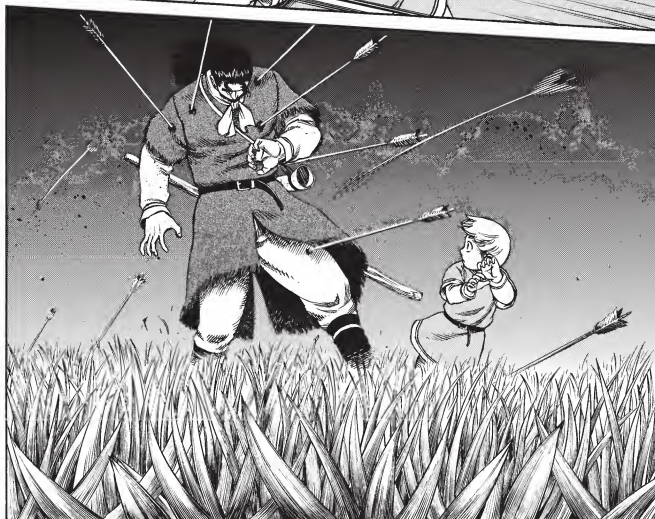
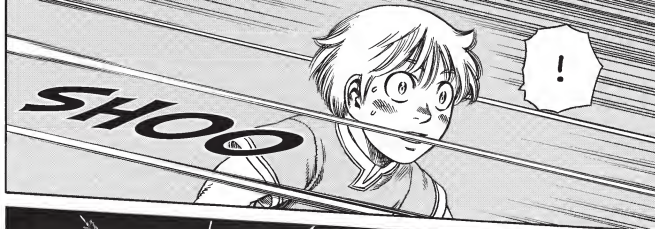
WHAT I
MEAN
IS...

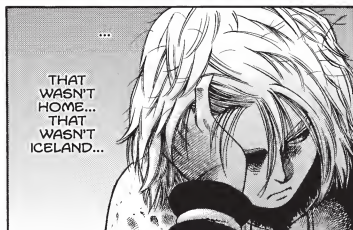
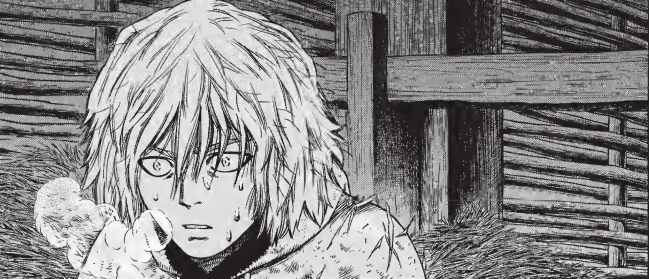
...GIVE UP
ON THIS
REVENGE
NONSENSE.

DO YOU
REALLY
THINK IT
WOULD
MAKE ME
HAPPY?







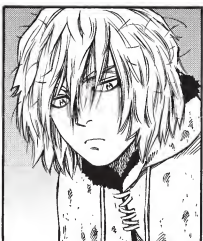


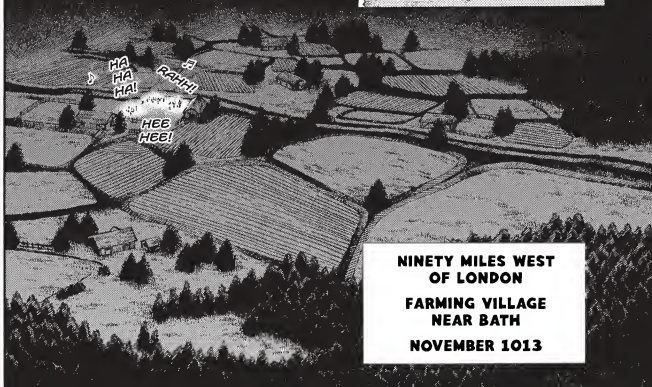
...AS
FAR AS
THE EYE
COULD
SEE...

...FULL OF
RIPPLING
PLAINS...

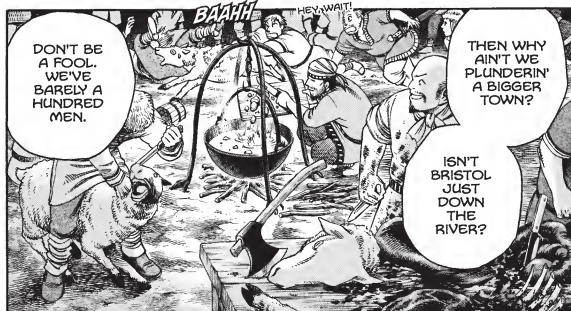
IT WAS
WARM...







**NINETY MILES WEST
OF LONDON
FARMING VILLAGE
NEAR BATH
NOVEMBER 1013**





THINK THERE'LL BE A NEXT YEAR?

THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR.

WE'LL ROUND OUT THE SEASON WITH TWO OR THREE MORE VILLAGES AND CALL IT QUILTS.

HEY, BRING MORE ALE!

GYAA!

FOOL? DID I HEAR YOU CALL ME A FOOL JUST NOW?

GYA HA HA!

OH, DID YOU HEAR THAT?

C'MON!

GIVE IT!

AT LEAST YOUR EARS WORK.

IF THAT'S TRUE, DENMARK'S WON. THE WAR'LL BE OVER.

AND NOW THEY SAY THE ENGLISH KING'S ABANDONED THE THRONE.

SIGH...

THIS YEAR WAS THE FIERCEST YET.

WE'VE BEEN BLEEDING ENGLAND DRY FOR A DECADE NOW.

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME!

I'LL KILL YOU!!

WHAT'S ALL THIS?

THORKELL THE TRAITOR'S STILL STOCKADED IN LONDON.

YOU SAW HIS STRENGTH. THE MAN'S INHUMAN.

SURE YOU'RE NOT BEING A BIT HASTY?

RAHHHH

BUT HE'S
NORDIC, ONE
OF US. HE
COULD TURN
ON ENGLAND
AT ANY
TIME...

THOR-
KELL...?

SURE,
HE'S
STRONG.

RAHHHHH

BLOOD!

KILL 'IM,
TORE!

AHH,
NOT
AGAIN.

ANYONE ELSE
MAKING
WAGERS?

UH...





AKE
CALLED
TORE A
FOOL.

TORE TOOK
OFFENSE, BUT
AKE DIDN'T
APOLOGIZE,
AND
INSULTED HIM
FURTHER.



STOP
THAT
THERE!

WHAT'S
THE
STORY
BEHIND
THIS?



"COW
THIEF."

OH
BOY. NO
WALKING
BACK
THAT
ONE.



LET'S
GO!

IF ONE OF
THEM DIES,
JUST MAKE
SURE TO
REPORT TO
ASKELADD.

NO
POINT
STOPPING
THEM.

SURE.

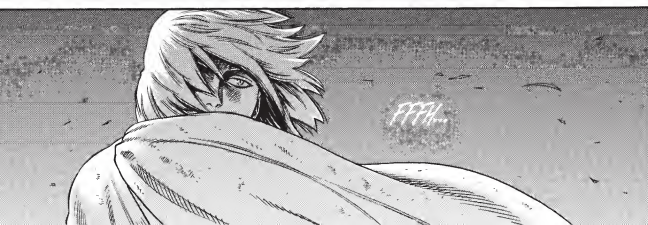
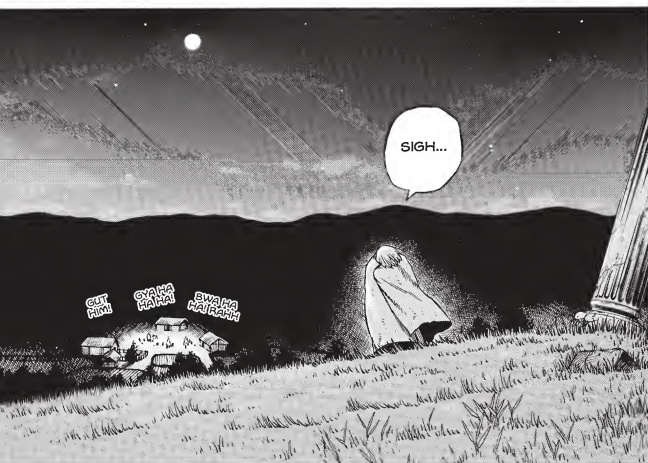
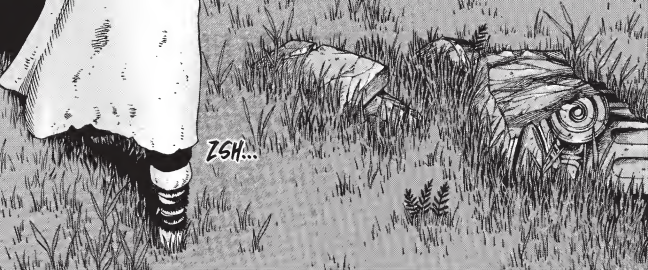
GET HIS
LEGS!

C'MON,
AKE!

DIE!

CLANG

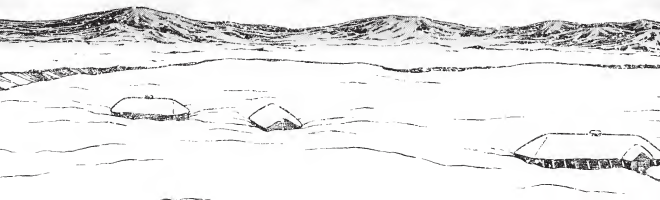
KILL,
KILL!





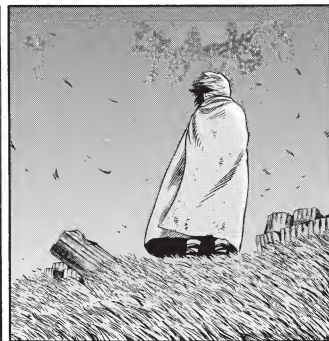
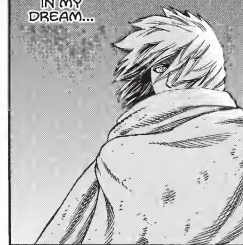
THE
SNOW'S
PROBABLY
PILING
UP THERE
ABOUT
NOW...

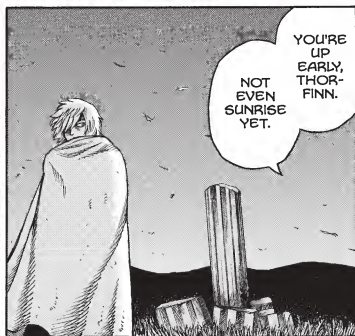
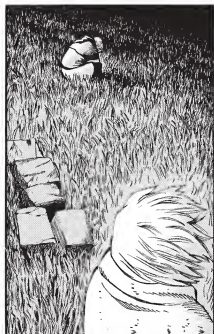
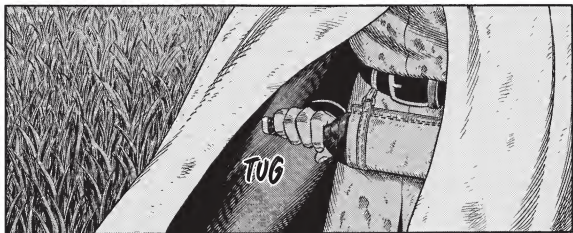
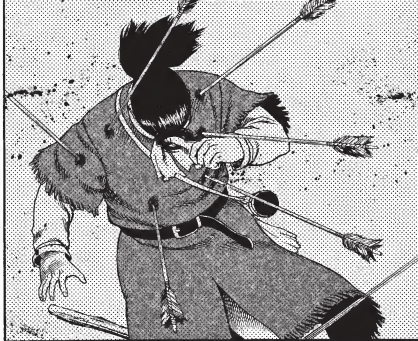
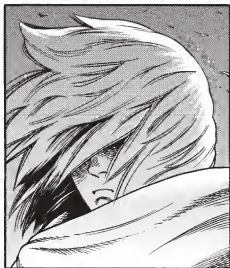
NOT AT
ALL LIKE
ICELAND.



LIKE THE
ONE I
SAW
IN MY
DREAM...

IT'S A
FERTILE
LAND.







TOO
NOISY
DOWN
THERE TO
SLEEP?

FORGIVE
THEM,
BOY.



...

DON'T
TALK
TO ME
LIKE
THAT.



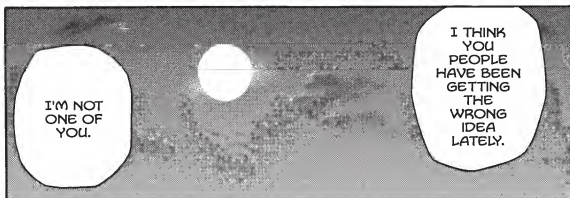
ALL THIS
MARCHING
AROUND
HAS THEM
ON EDGE.

SOMETIMES
YOU'VE
GOT TO LET
THEM BLOW
OFF A LITTLE
STEAM.

GYA
HA
HA!

HEE
HEE
HEE!

YES, YES!
KILL HIM!



I'M NOT
ONE OF
YOU.

I THINK
YOU
PEOPLE
HAVE BEEN
GETTING
THE
WRONG
IDEA
LATELY.



THE DAY
IS COMING
WHEN I
SLIT YOUR
THROAT.

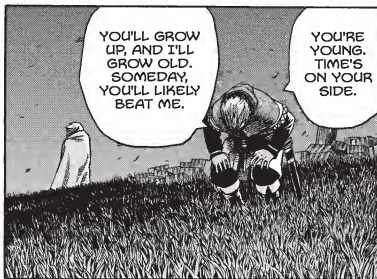
YOU THINK
YOU'RE THE
CLEVER
MANIPULATOR,
TRICKING ME
INTO DOING
YOUR WORK.

KEEP
THINKING
THAT.



THE LITTLE
DUMP-
LING'S OLD
ENOUGH
TO GIVE ME
THE STINK
EYE.

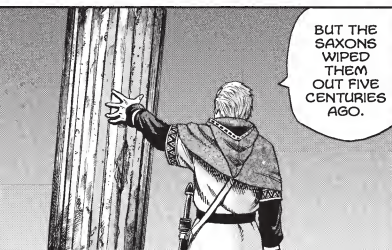
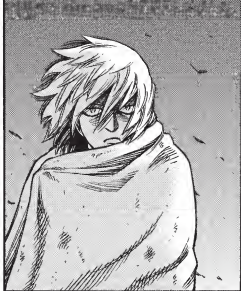
HAH.
SCARY.



YOU'LL GROW
UP, AND I'LL
GROW OLD.
SOMEDAY,
YOU'LL LIKELY
BEAT ME.

YOU'RE
YOUNG.
TIME'S
ON YOUR
SIDE.

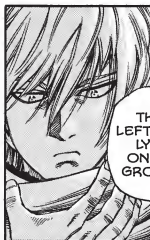




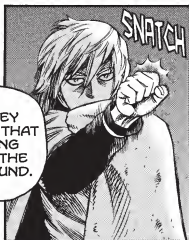


THEY
WERE THE
ROMANS.

AND THIS
WAS KNOWN
AS
"BRITANNIA."



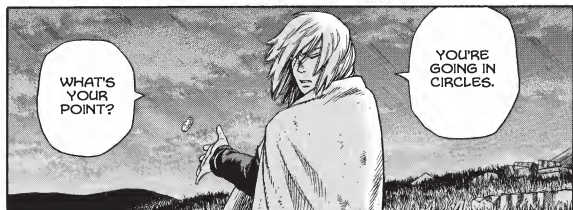
THEY
LEFT THAT
LYING
ON THE
GROUND.





THEY
HAD AN
ADVANCED
CIVILIZATION.

MUCH
MORE
ADVANCED
THAN ANY
TODAY.



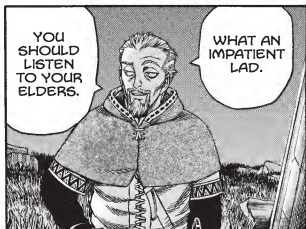
WHAT'S
YOUR
POINT?

YOU'RE
GOING IN
CIRCLES.



LOOK.

MY
POINT
IS...



YOU
SHOULD
LISTEN
TO YOUR
ELDERS.

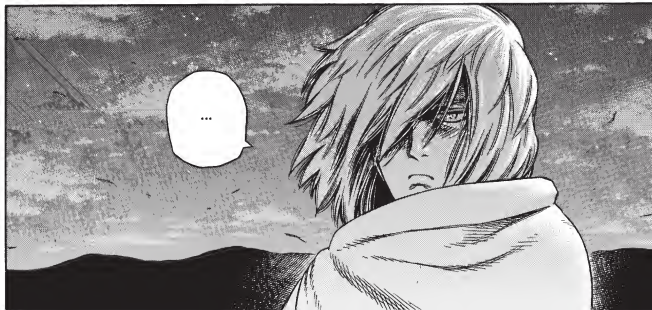
WHAT AN
IMPATIENT
LAD.



THE
WORLD
OF MAN IS
SLOWLY...

...BUT
SURELY...

...GROWING
OLD.



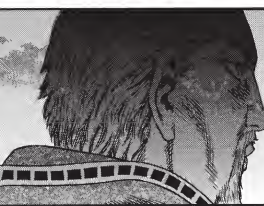
...



THE GLORY
OF THE
ROMAN
EMPIRE
IS A RELIC
OF THE
DISTANT
PAST.

THE
SAXONS
WIPED
OUT THE
ROMANS...

...AND
WE'RE
HERE
TO PUT
AN END
TO THE
SAXONS.



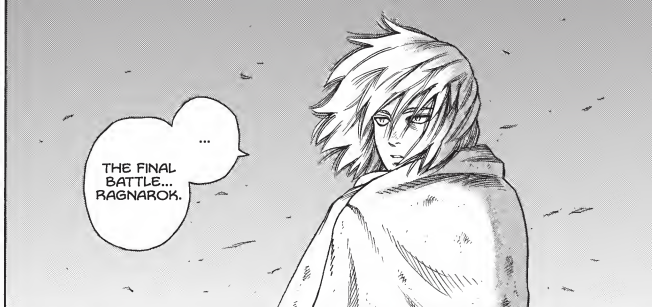
...THE
FINAL
JUDGMENT
IS COMING
IN JUST
TWENTY
YEARS.

IF YOU
BELIEVE
WHAT THE
CHRISTIANS
SAY...



...AND THE
WORLD
WE KNOW
WILL
CEASE TO
BE.

WHEN
THAT DAY
COMES,
GOD
WILL KILL
ALL THE
HUMANS...

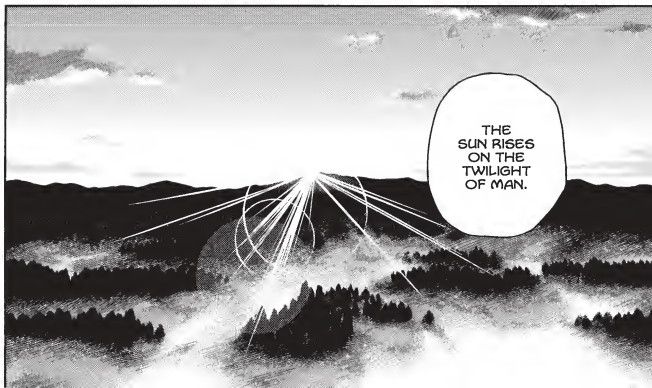
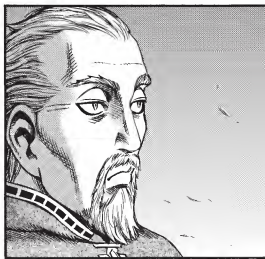


...
THE FINAL
BATTLE...
RAGNAROK.

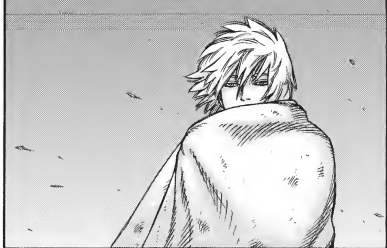
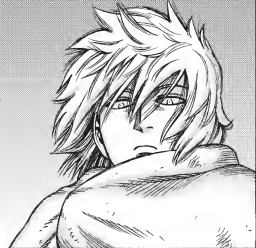


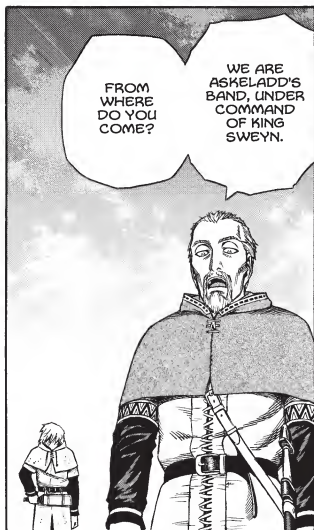
ISN'T
IT
ABSURD?

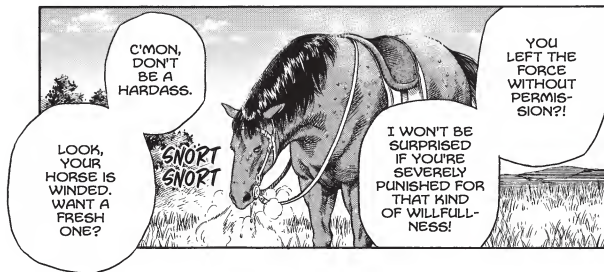
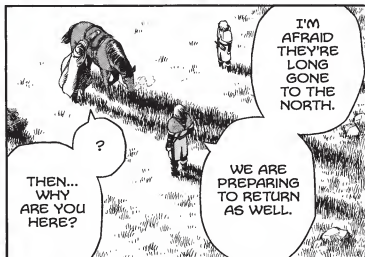
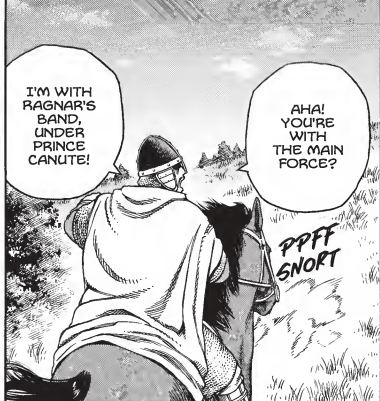
LOOK,
THOR-
FINN.

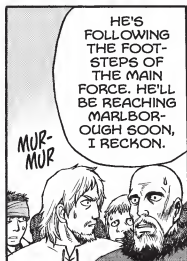
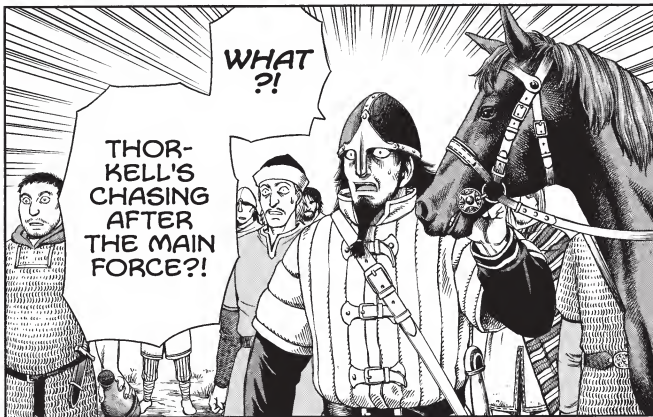


THE
SUN RISES
ON THE
TWILIGHT
OF MAN.











PRINCE
CANUTE
HAD FOUR
THOUSAND
MEN.

WHAT
OF THE
SIEGE OF
LONDON?

IS
THOR-
KELL
MAD,
OR
JUST
STUPID?

HE'S
GONNA
TAKE ON
THE MAIN
FORCE
WITH FIVE
HUNDRED
MEN?

AIN'T
MARL-
BOROUGH
JUST
DOWN
THE ROAD
A BIT?



I STAND
BEFORE
YOU ONE
OF THE
FEW
SURVIVORS.

THE SIEGE
IS LONG
SHAT-
TERED.

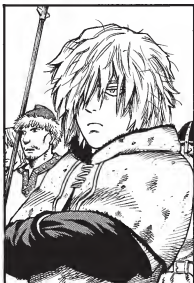
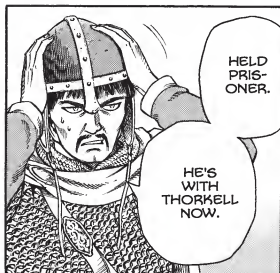
HAH! WE
MET A
CRUEL
FATE.

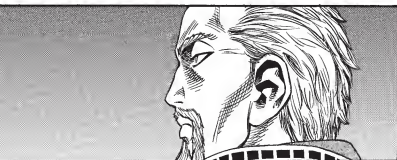


HIS MEN
WERE
STRONG
AS GIANT
BEARS.

THEY RAN
THROUGH
US ON
THE WAY
TO THE
ARMY.

THEY
STRUCK
OUT FROM
THE CITY,
THORKELL
IN THE
LEAD.





IT'S
YOUR
CALL,
ASKELADD.

WHAT
DO WE
DO?

HUH?

NO USE
WAITING
TO FADE
INTO THE
SUNSET, I
SUPPOSE...

I'LL
BE
DAMNED
...

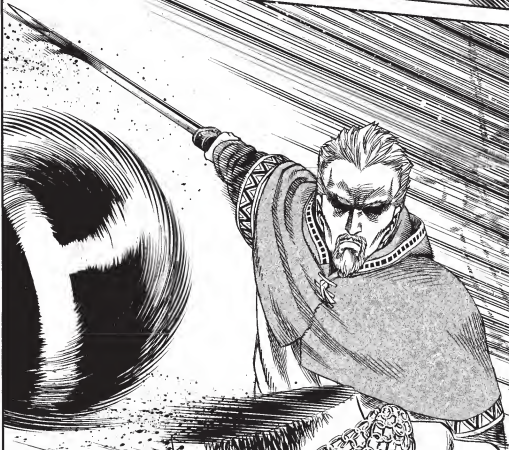
THE
SOUND OF
RAGNAROK'S
FOOTSTEPS
DRAWING
NEAR.

DON'T
YOU
HEAR
IT,
BJORN?



WHAT?

SHNG

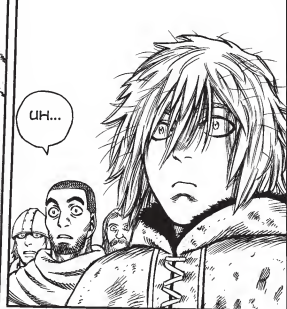


SLICE

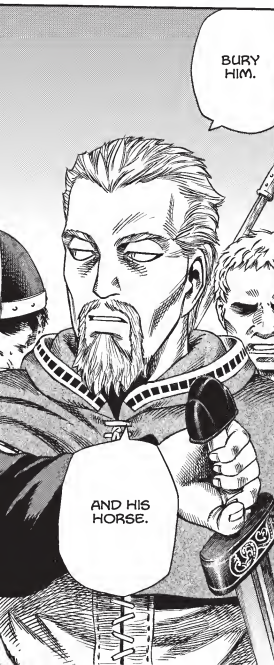
SPRT
SPLUT



UH...



BURY
HIM.



AND HIS
HORSE.



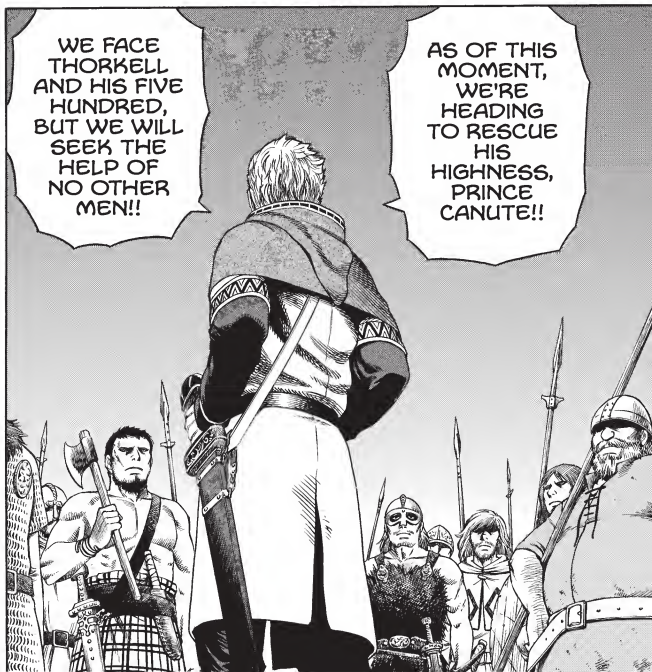
DSHHK



**LISTEN
UP,
EVERY
ONE
OF
YOU!!**

...UH...

...YOU
KI...



**WE FACE
THORKELL
AND HIS FIVE
HUNDRED,
BUT WE WILL
SEEK THE
HELP OF
NO OTHER
MEN!!**

**AS OF THIS
MOMENT,
WE'RE
HEADING
TO RESCUE
HIS
HIGHNESS,
PRINCE
CANUTE!!**



PRINCE
CANUTE IS
THE HEIR TO
THE DANISH
THRONE,
THE FIRST IN
LINE TO THE
MONARCHY!

THIS IS
WHERE
WE MAKE
OUR
GAMBLE!



AND NO
OTHER
SON OF
A BITCH
WILL BEAT
US TO
HIM!

THE
CONQUEROR
OF BOTH
DENMARK
AND
ENGLAND
WILL PAY A
DEAR PRICE
FOR THE
BOY.

CAN YOU
IMAGINE
WHAT WE
COULD
GET?



OOOH...
YEAH!!

HE'S
OURS
FOR
THE
TAKING
!!

LET'S
DO
IT!!



DON'T
YOU
HAVE
ANY—



RAAHHH

WE'LL
SEE.

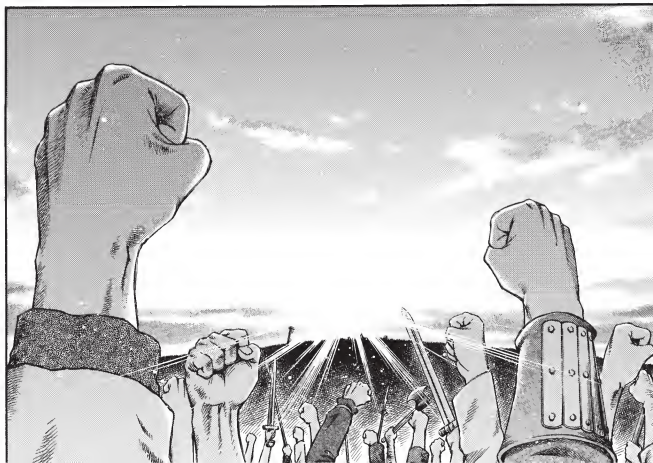
DO YOU
HAVE A
PLAN?

WHY'D
YOU GO
AND FIRE
THEM
UP LIKE
THAT...?

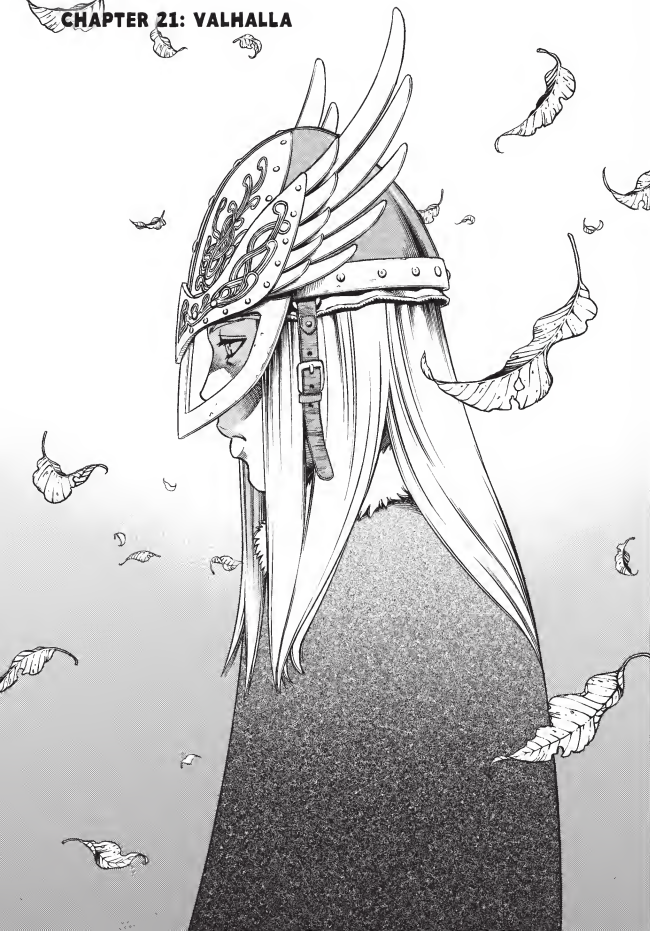


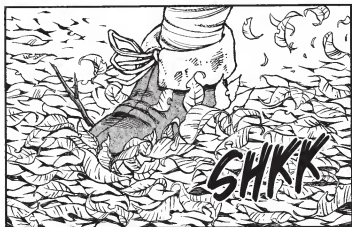
MIGHT
AS WELL
RAISE
SOME
HELL.

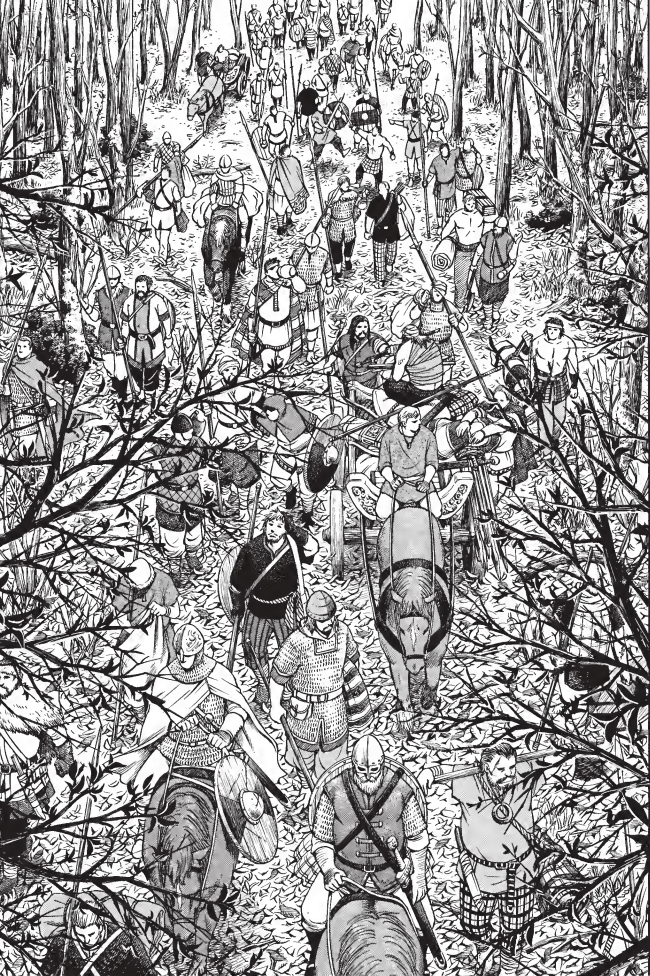
THIS
IS THE
TWILIGHT
OF THE
WORLD,
BJORN.

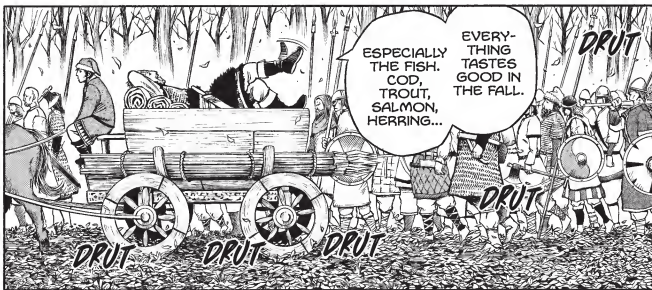


CHAPTER 21: VALHALLA











DRUT DRUT DRUT DRUT

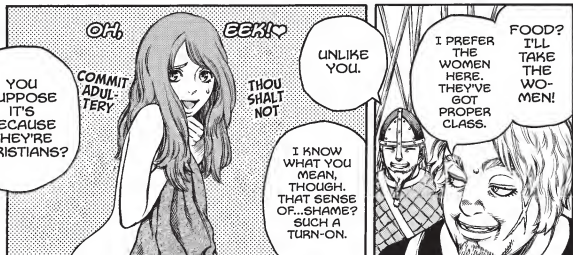
I'LL
DRINK
TO THAT!
GIVE
ME A
SWIG.

I WASN'T
A FAN AT
FIRST, BUT
I'M SLOWLY
COMING
'ROUND TO
ENGLISH
BEER.

I LIKE A
GOOD
CHEESE
WITH MY
BEER.

THAT
STUFF WE
PILLAGED
FROM
CHEDDAR
WAS
MIGHTY
FINE.

GLUG



YOU
SUPPOSE
IT'S
BECAUSE
THEY'RE
CHRISTIANS?

OH,
COMMIT
ADUL-
TERY

EEK!

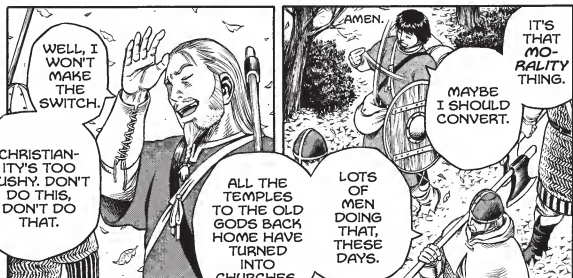
THOU
SHALT
NOT

UNLIKE
YOU.

I KNOW
WHAT YOU
MEAN,
THOUGH.
THAT SENSE
OF...SHAME?
SUCH A
TURN-ON.

I PREFER
THE
WOMEN
HERE.
THEY'VE
GOT
PROPER
CLASS.

FOOD?
I'LL
TAKE
THE
WOMEN!



WELL, I
WON'T
MAKE
THE
SWITCH.

CHRISTIAN-
ITY'S TOO
PUSHY. DON'T
DO THIS,
DON'T DO
THAT.

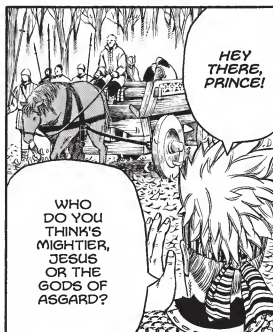
ALL THE
TEMPLES
TO THE OLD
GODS BACK
HOME HAVE
TURNED
INTO
CHURCHES.

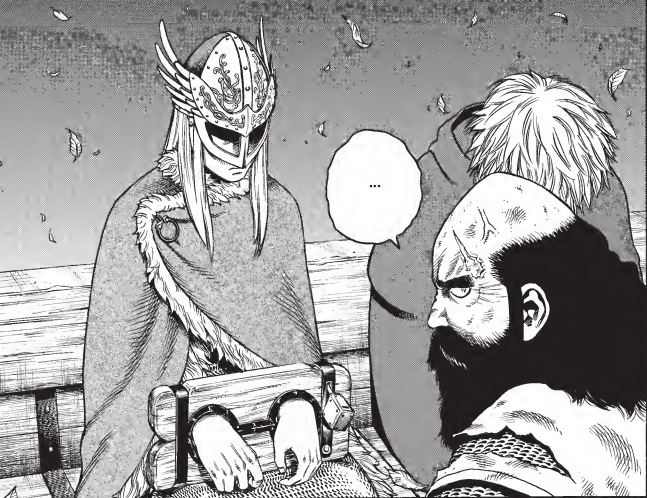
LOTS
OF
MEN
DOING
THAT,
THESE
DAYS.

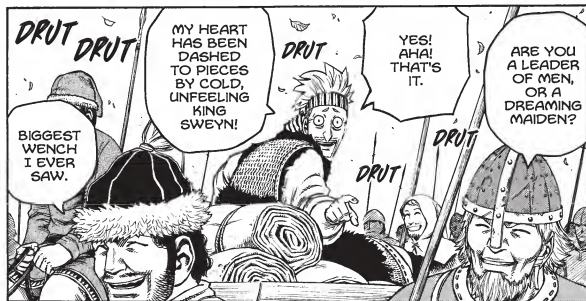
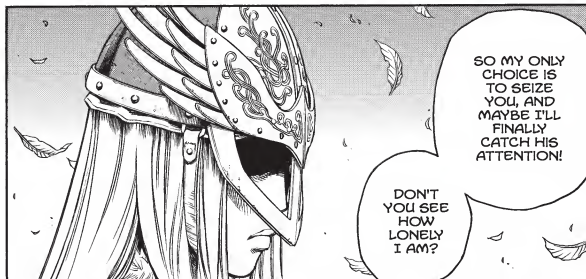
AMEN.

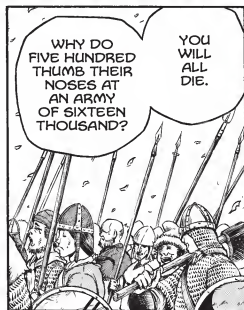
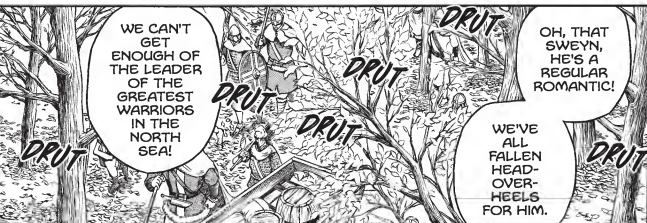
MAYBE
I SHOULD
CONVERT.

IT'S
THAT
MO-
RALITY
THING.

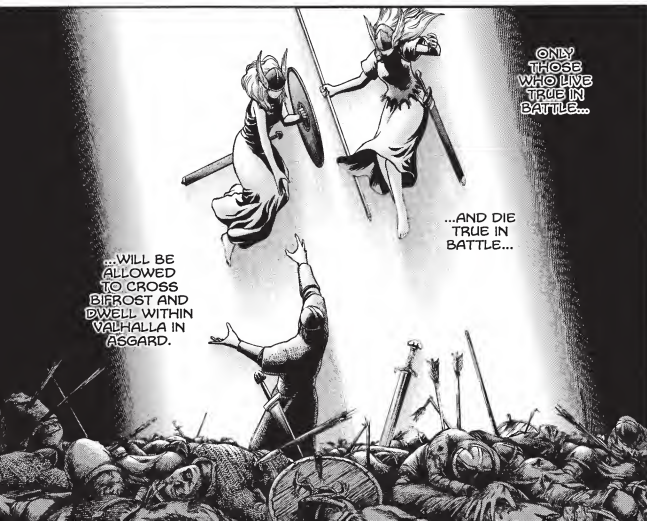
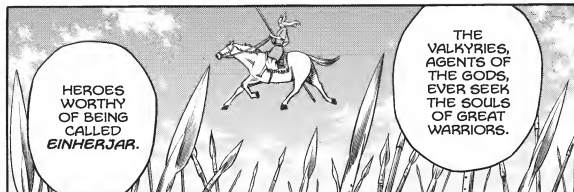
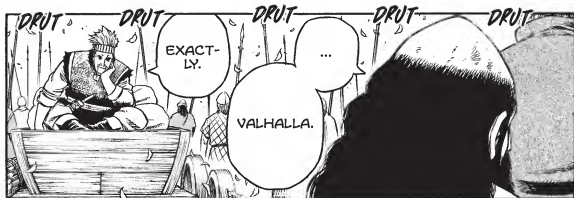


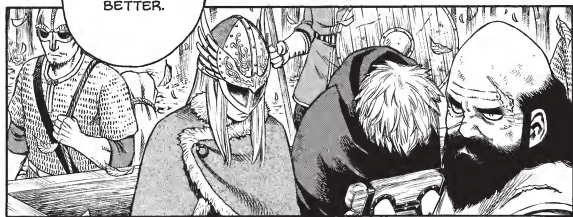


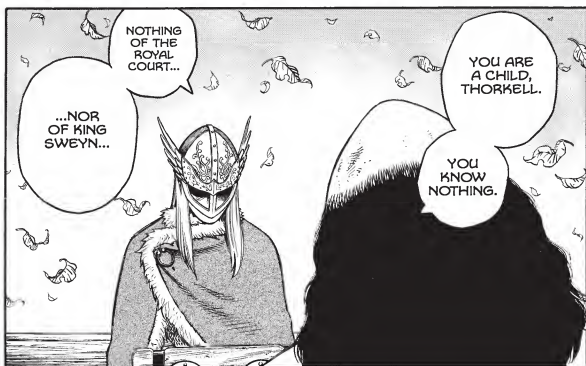


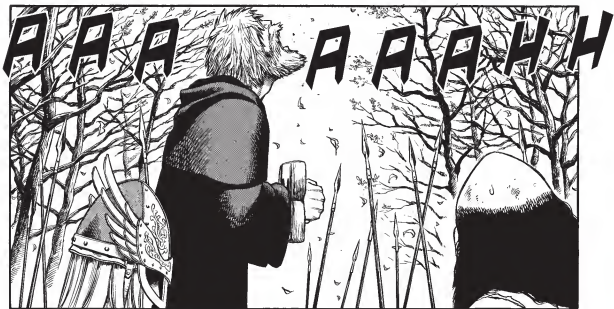
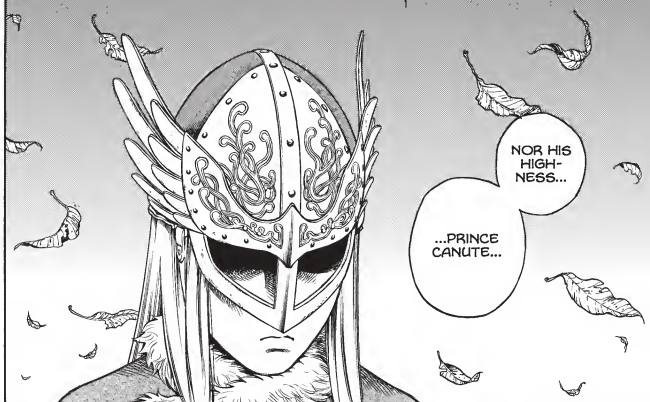














AAH

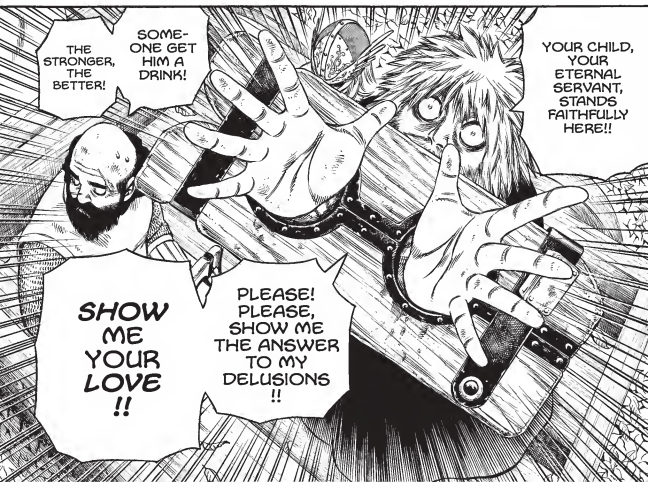
OH
DRAT,
HIS
DRINK
HAS RUN
DRY!

FATHER
WILLIBALD,
CALM
YOURSELF!



I
CAN
SEE
HIM
!!

FATHER
ABOVE!!
GOD IN
HEAVEN,
IS THAT
YOU?!



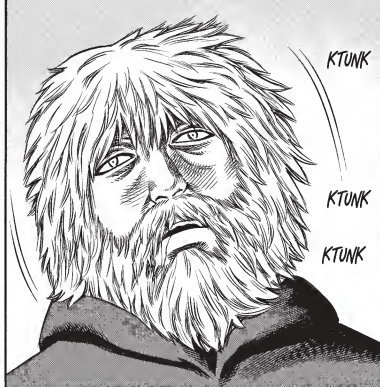
THE
STRONGER,
THE
BETTER!

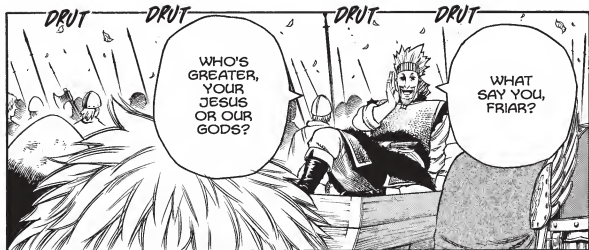
SOME-
ONE GET
HIM A
DRINK!

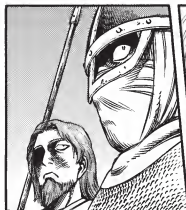
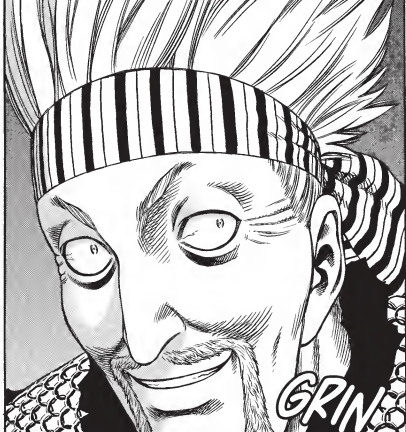
YOUR CHILD,
YOUR
ETERNAL
SERVANT,
STANDS
FAITHFULLY
HERE!!

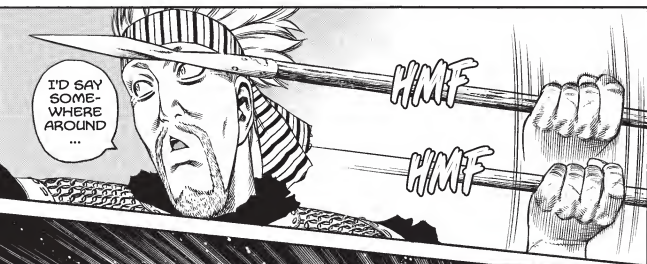
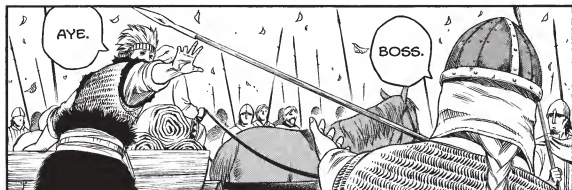
SHOW
ME
YOUR
LOVE
!!

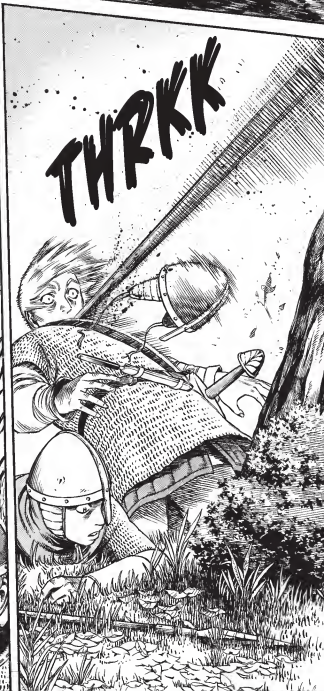
PLEASE!
PLEASE,
SHOW ME
THE ANSWER
TO MY
DELUSIONS
!!



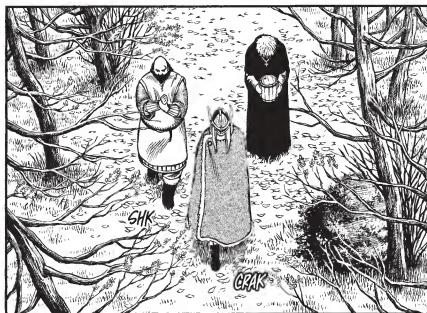
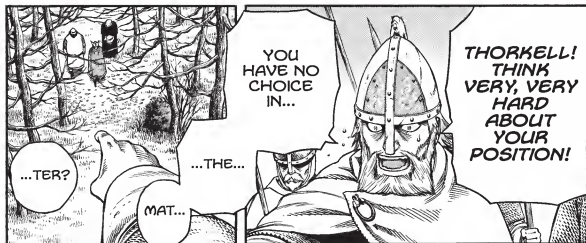


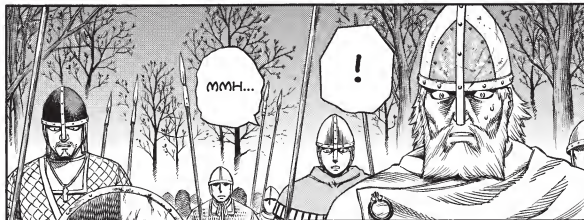




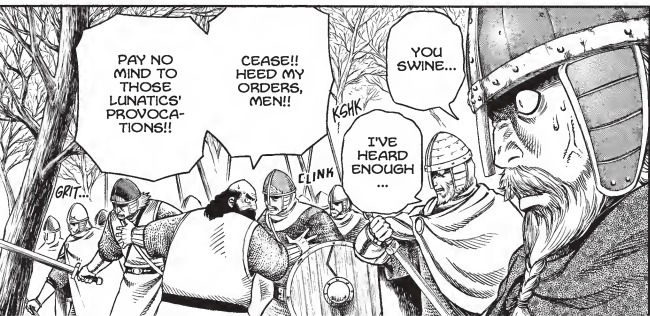
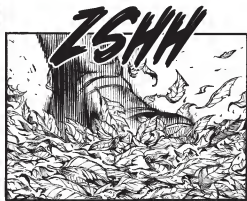
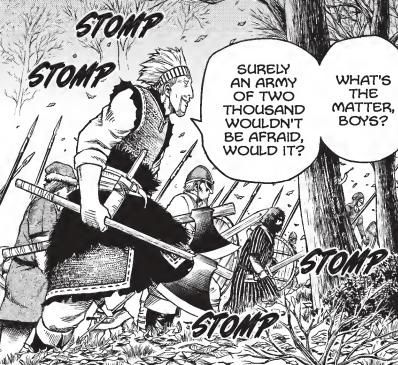














WE'LL
SEND
YOU ALL
TO
VALHALLA
!!

DO
YOUR
WORST
!!



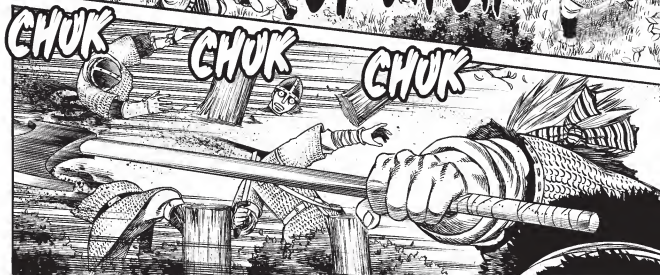
HA-
HA!

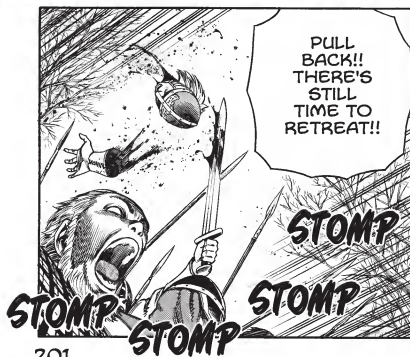
I'D
LOVE
TO SEE
YOU
TRY!!

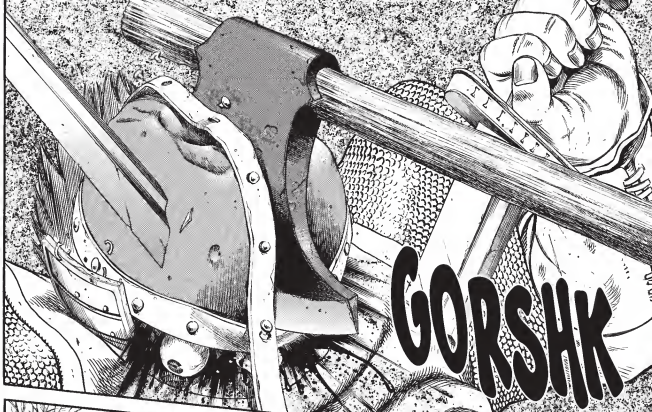




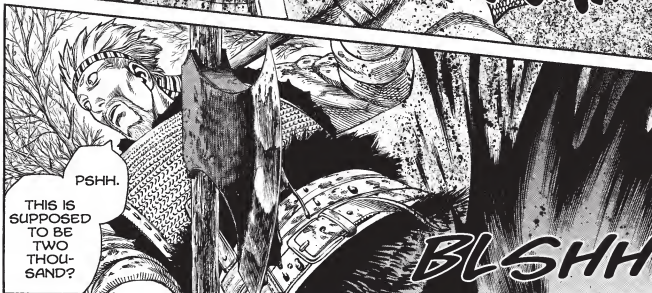








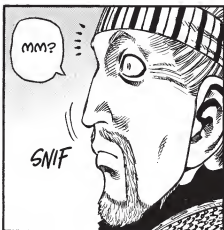
GORSHK



PSHH.

THIS IS
SUPPOSED
TO BE
TWO
THOU-
SAND?

BLSHH



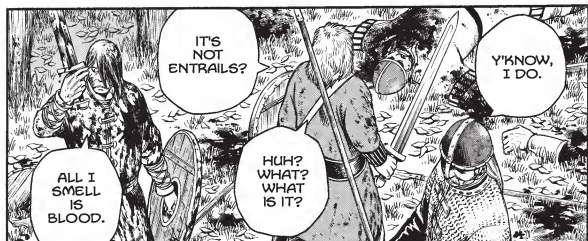
MM?

SNIF

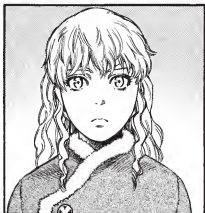
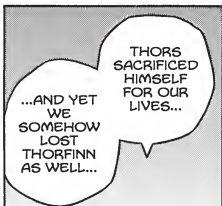
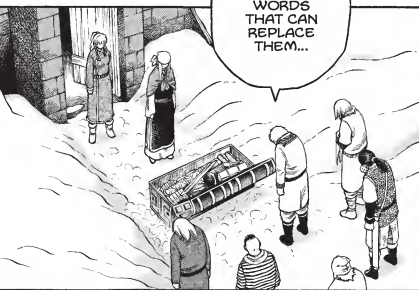
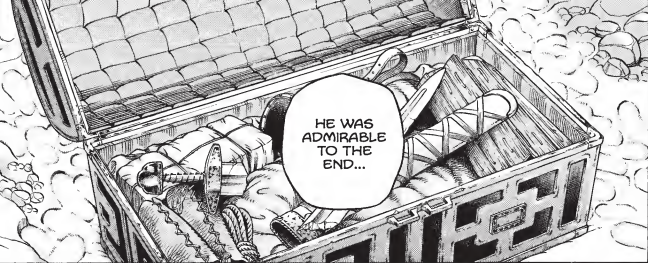


MORE
LIKE FOUR
HUNDRED
AT BEST.

WE
COULD
CLEAN
THE LOT
UP IN
HALF A
MINUTE.



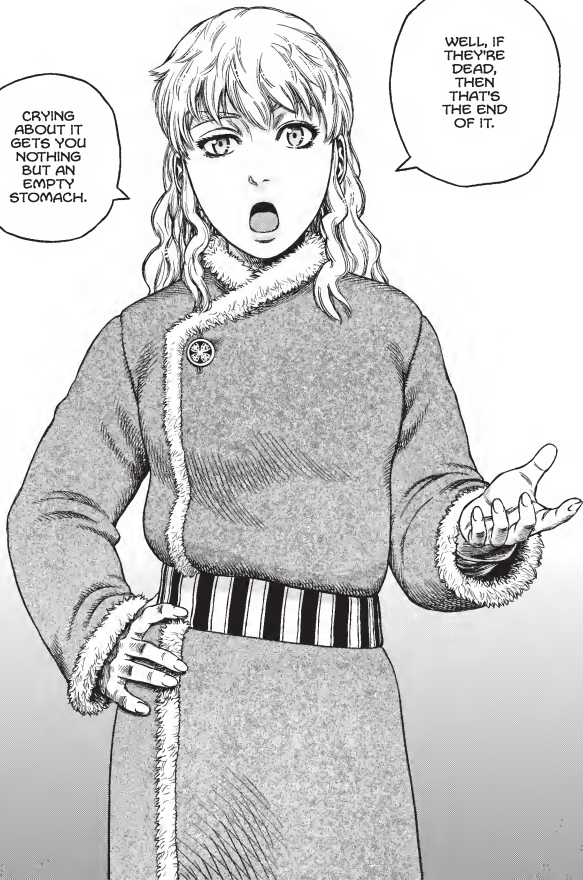


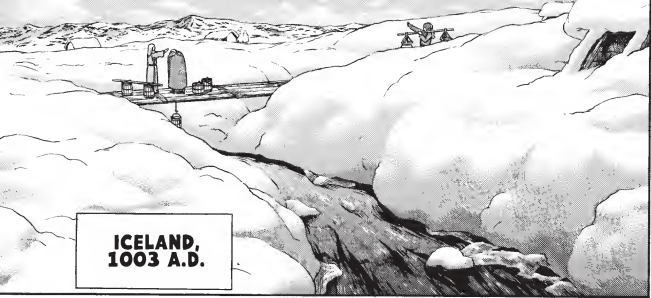


BONUS STORY: YLVA AT WORK

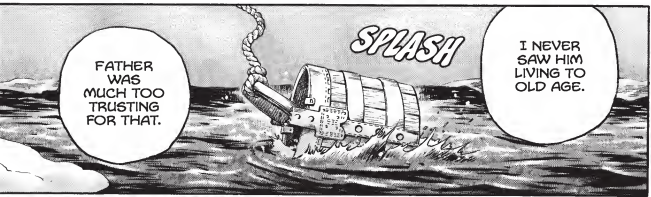
CRYING
ABOUT IT
GETS YOU
NOTHING
BUT AN
EMPTY
STOMACH.

WELL, IF
THEY'RE
DEAD,
THEN
THAT'S
THE END
OF IT.





**ICELAND,
1003 A.D.**



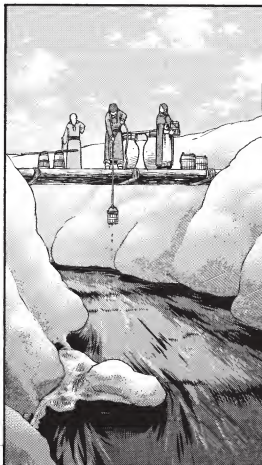
FATHER
WAS
MUCH TOO
TRUSTING
FOR THAT.

SPLASH

I NEVER
SAW HIM
LIVING TO
OLD AGE.

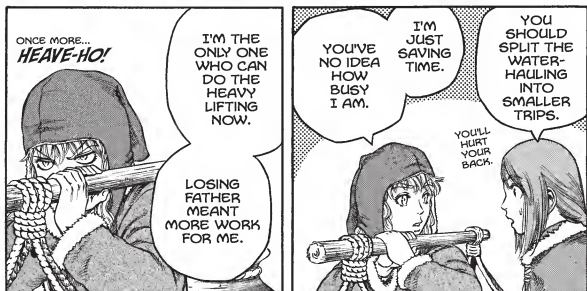
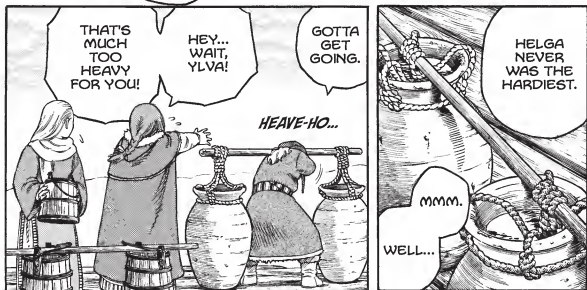


WHEN A
MAN'S AN
ECCENTRIC,
IT'S HIS
FAMILY THAT
SUFFERS.



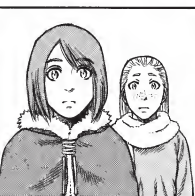
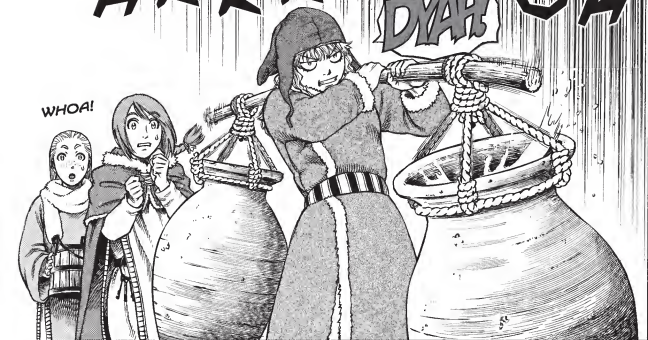
I MEAN,
JUST BEFORE
HE LEFT, HE
SOLD EIGHT
SHEEP FOR A
SLAVE WHO
DIED THAT
VERY NIGHT.

IT
NEARLY
BEG-
GARED
US!



HRRR DYAH! GH

WHOA!

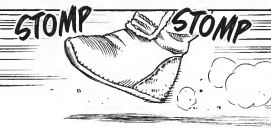
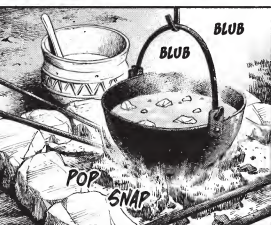
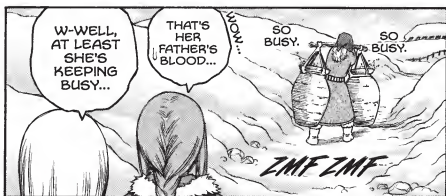


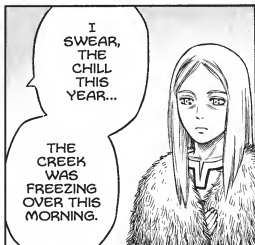
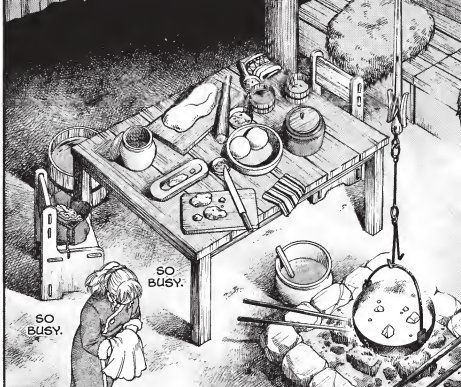
W-WELL,
AT LEAST
SHE'S
KEEPING
BUSY...

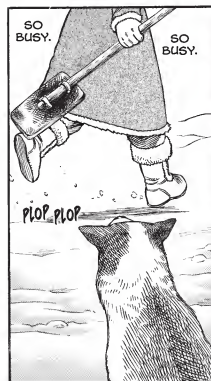
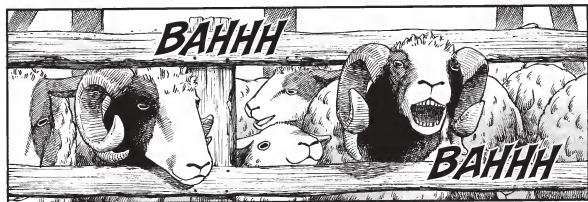
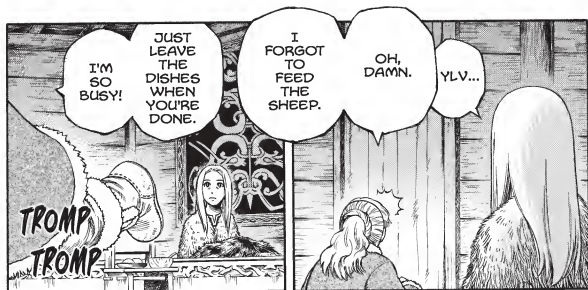
THAT'S HER
FATHER'S
BLOOD...

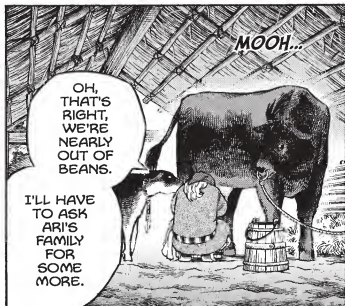
SO
BUSY.

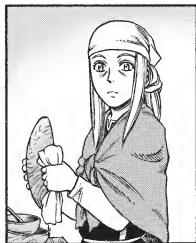
SO
BUSY.











MOTHER!!
A
WHALE
!!



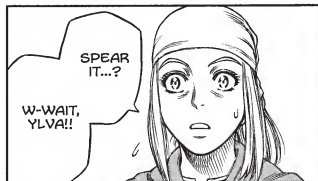
AND I
TOLD
YOU NOT
TO GET
UP! I'LL
WASH THE
DISHES
FOR YOU!

WHERE'S
FATHER'S
HARPOON?
IN THE
STORE-
ROOM?

THERE'S
A
WHALE
IN THE
BAY!

STOMP

STOMP
STOMP



SPEAR
IT...?

W-WAIT,
YLVA!!



I'LL BE RIGHT
BACK!

YOU'RE
JUST A
GIRL!

ZOOM



SPEAR
IT!

HARPOON...?
WHAT
WILL YOU
DO WITH
THAT...?

AHA,
FOUND
IT.



FIRST
HARPOON
GOES
TO
ME!!

YOW!

WHOAH!

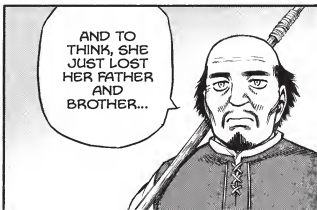
ARE
YOU
SERIOUS
?!

166HH

HOLY-!



HRA-
AH!!



AND TO
THINK,
SHE
JUST
LOST
HER
FATHER
AND
BROTHER...



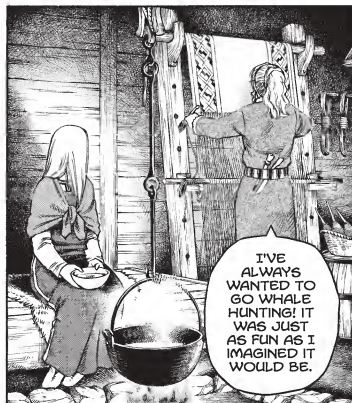
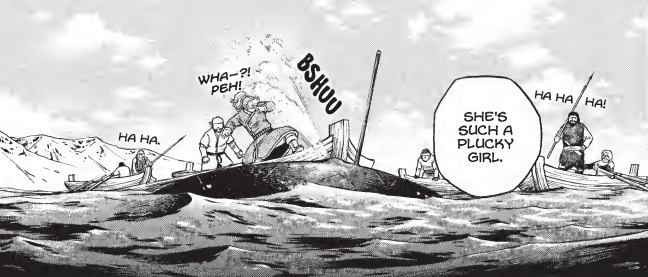
THAT'S
THE
BLOOD
OF
THORS...

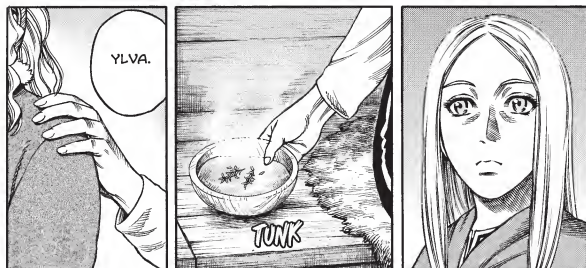
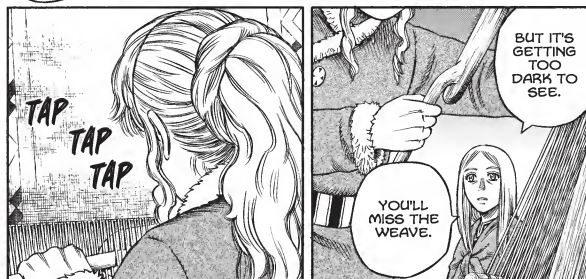
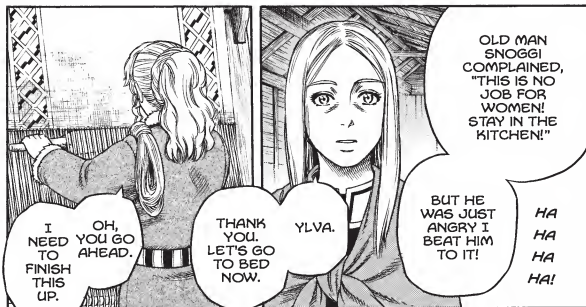
HWAH...

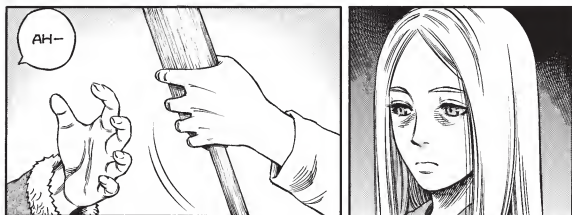
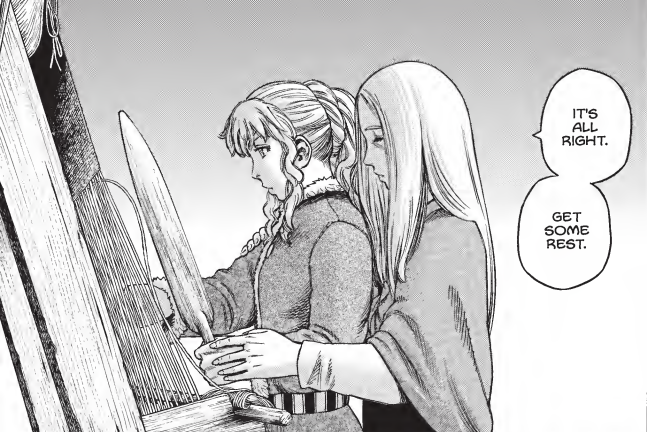
RAAH

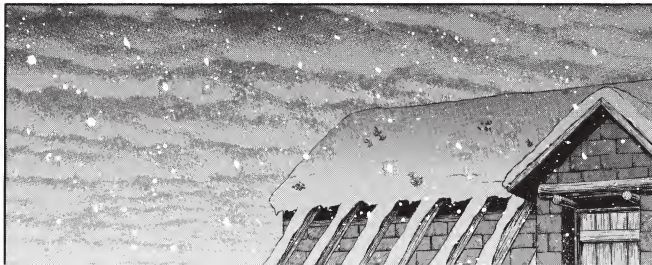
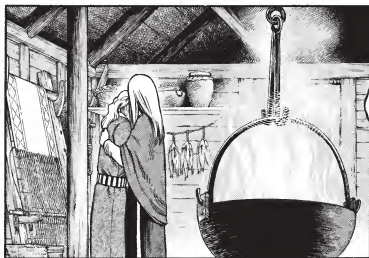
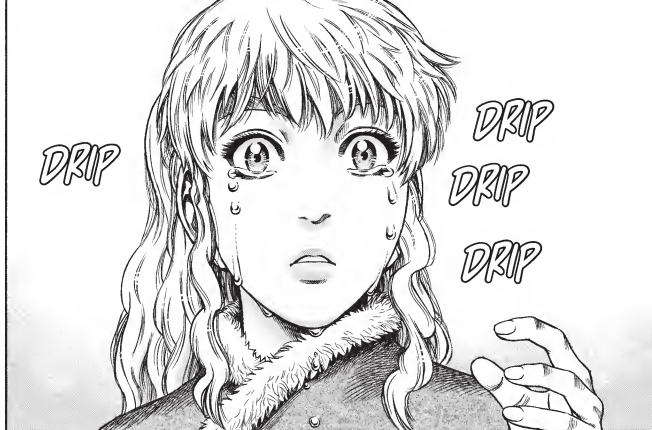
THE
GIRL'S
A
FORCE
OF
NATURE!

SPLASH









VINLAND SAGA MAP

THORFINN'S TRAVELS

ICELAND

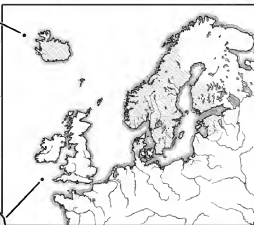
Where Thorfinn was born and raised. His little village was peaceful and quiet, far from the fires of war.



HELGA



YLVA



RIVER HUMBER

The place where King Sweyn of Denmark invaded England, using Gainsborough as his base.



KING
SWEYN



LONDON

A trading town protected by the Danish traitor Thorkell. Floki, Askeladd and the other Danes attacked, but failed to bring it down.



THORFINN



THORKELL



FLOKI

MARLBOROUGH NEAR BATH

Thorkell chases the Danish Army with Prince Canute held hostage. Askeladd plots to strike Thorkell and take Canute from him.



ASKELADD



CANUTE



RAGNAR

WE MADE THIS.

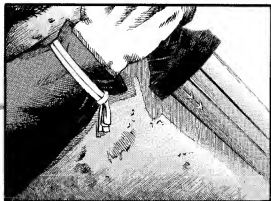


HAITO KUMAGAI

SENSEI'S KARAOKE IS AMAZING. YOUR LOCAL PUNK BAND HAS NOTHING ON THIS GUY.



HE'S FAST, TALENTED, AND DOES THE WORK OF THREE. GREAT FOR GORY SCENES.

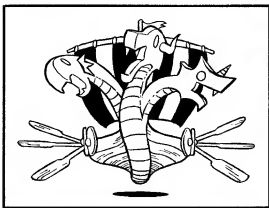


KAZUOKI SUZUKI

YUKIMURA-SENSEI IS A GREAT ARTIST WHO PROVIDES GENTLE GUIDANCE FOR EVEN A ROOKIE SUCH AS MYSELF. HOWEVER, I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO STOP TOUCHING MY BUTT.



NO WAY. I'LL NEVER STOP. I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY TO SUE ME.



TOMOYUKI TAKAMI

I MAKE DOJINSHI SOMETIMES. MY CIRCLE'S NAME IS "GENKAI TSUSHINSHA." IF YOU SEE ONE ANYWHERE, PICK IT UP.



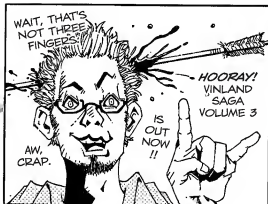
THEY'RE REALLY WELL-MADE DOJINSHI. 500 YEN IS A STEAL!

DAIJU WATANABE

I HAVE A ONE-SHOT MANGA IN "TALES OF WARLORDS," OCTOBER 2006. I'VE USED ALL THE TRICKS YUKIMURA-SENSEI TAUGHT ME, SO CHECK IT OUT.



HE'S GREAT AT MARIO KART AND KARAOKE. I'LL BEAT HIM SOMEDAY, THOUGH.



AFTERWORD

The more I draw Vikings, the more questions I have. What did they use to cut their toenails? Scissors? Did they get cavities without toothbrushes? Did they clean their ears out? What did they use? They sound like silly, pointless questions, but if one is to depict the Vikings' daily lives in art, that makes them very important, in my opinion. After all, they didn't spend every waking moment at war. I guess I find these topics much more interesting than stuffy chronologies and historical accounts. By the way, I have yet to find any reference to the Vikings' post-toilet wiping habits in my reference materials. I mean, not that I'm considering that to be the final say in the matter...yet...

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
SAGA**



VINLAND SAGA



CHAPTER 22: THE TROLL'S SON









IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE WE HAD A GOOD RAIN.

LOOK AT THAT BABY BURN.



NO ARGUMENT HERE. IT'S PAINFUL AND DULL.

LOOK AT HIM ROLL...

MMM! NASTY STUFF!

SO MANY WAYS TO DIE, AND I'D TAKE NEARLY ALL OF THEM OVER FIRE.

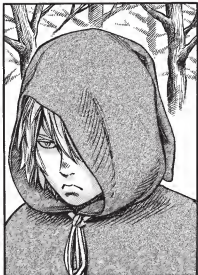
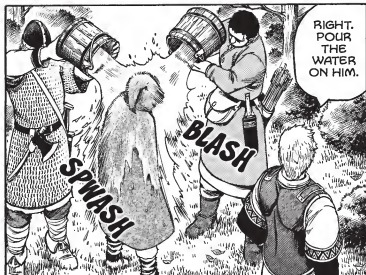


OOOH, LOOK AT HIM! POOR SAP.

AAAGH

HNGH

NICE AND CRISPY.





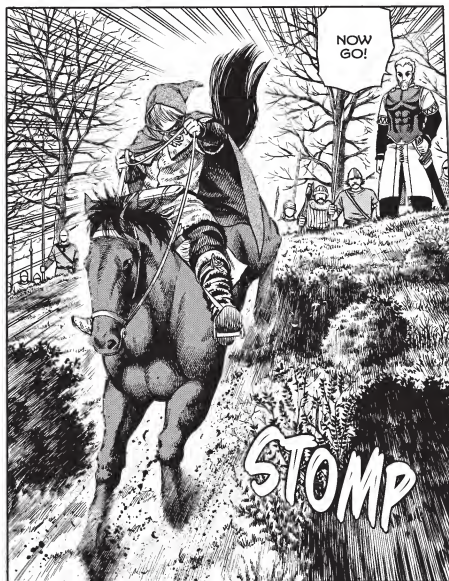
LEAP

HE'S IN THE
FEATHERED
HELM AND
RED CAPE.
DON'T GET
THE WRONG
MAN.

HEAD LIKE
THIS.

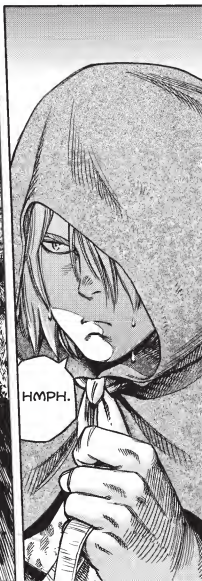
YOU
SPOTTED
PRINCE
CANUTE
EARLIER,
RIGHT?

PFFF

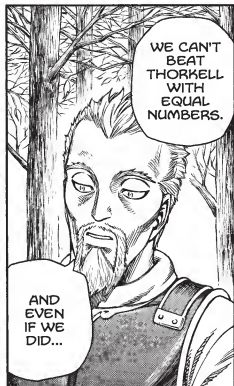


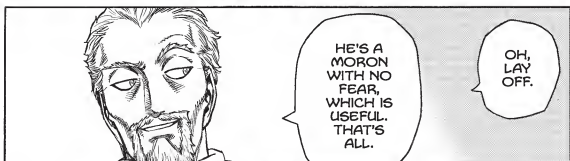
NOW
GO!

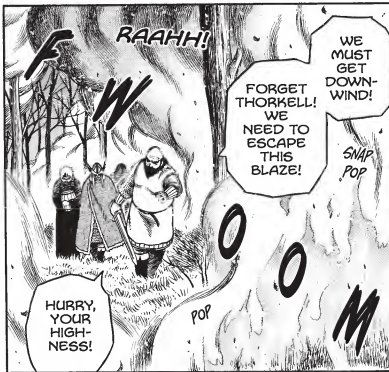
STOMP

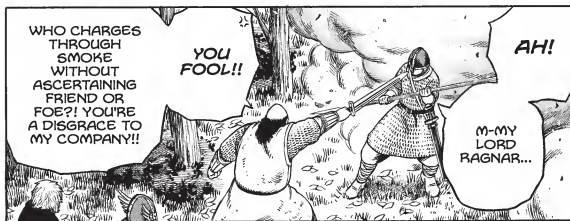


HMPH.









WHO CHARGES
THROUGH
SMOKE
WITHOUT
ASCERTAINING
FRIEND OR
FOE?! YOU'RE
A DISGRACE TO
MY COMPANY!!

YOU
FOOL!!

AH!

M-MY
LORD
RAGNAR...



THERE,
SEE?

THERE'S
A
SOLDIER
WITH
GOOD
JUDG-
MENT.

WHERE
ARE
YOU?!

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!!
LORD
RAG-
NAR!!



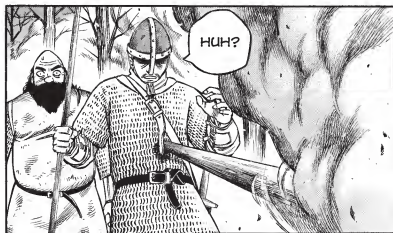
WHAT IF
YOU HAD
RUN HIS
HIGHNESS
THROUGH?!
YOU GREAT
IDIOT!!

I...I'M
SO
SORRY...

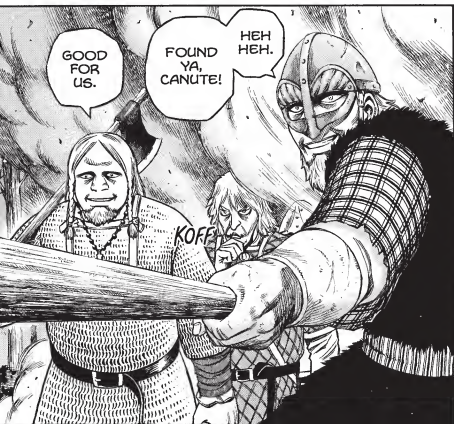
I WAS
UNNERVED...

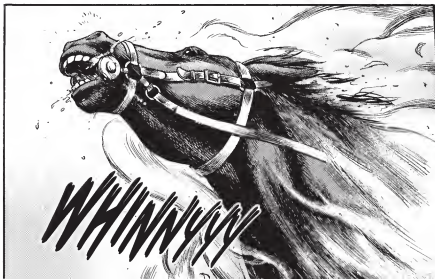
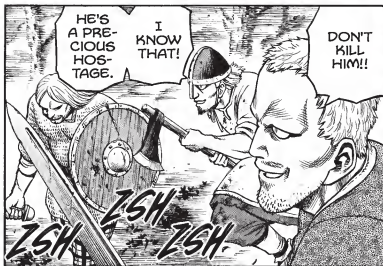


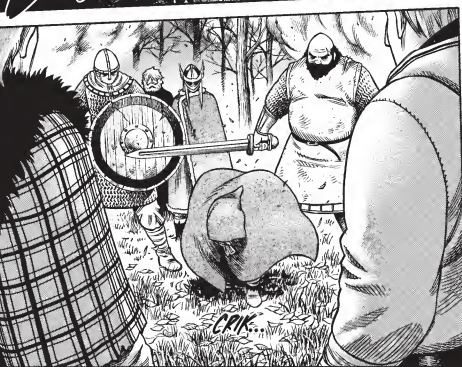
WE'RE
FRIENDLY!
CAN YOU
HEAR
ME?



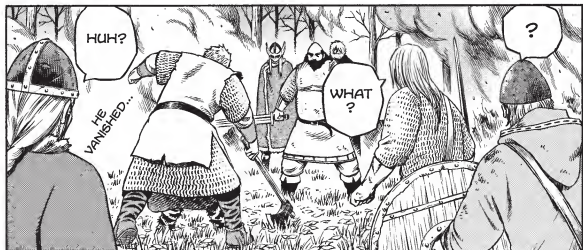
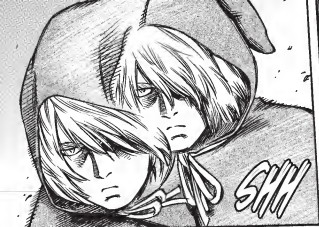
THUICK



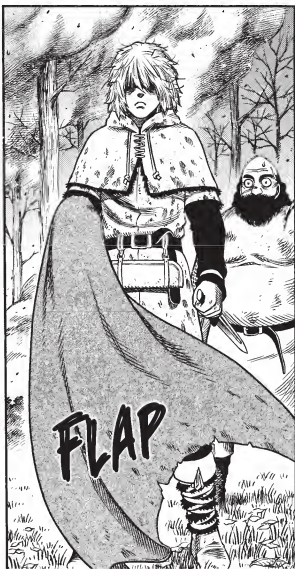


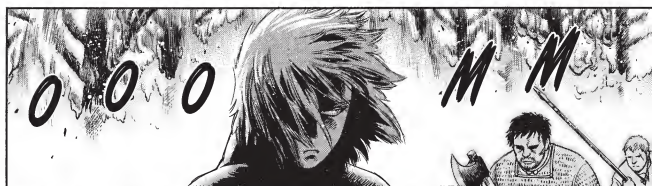














WHY DOES THE POOR PRINCE ...

...NEVER HAVE A BETTER CHOICE?



...KH.



HERE TO SAVE US...?

NONSENSE. THERE ARE NO FORCES HERE TO SAVE HIS HIGHNESS...

ON THE OTHER HAND ...



YOU'RE THOR-FINN, RIGHT?!

THOR-FINN!
HO!



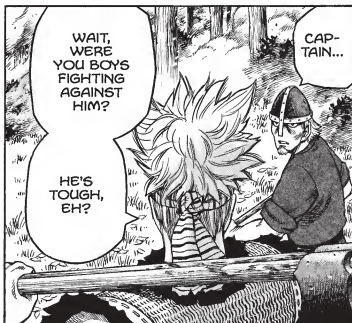
ZSH



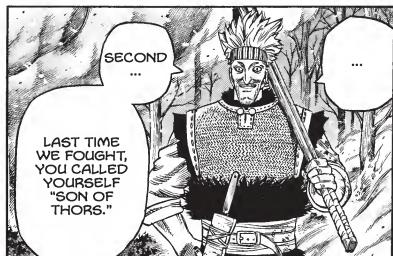
...!

TSK.





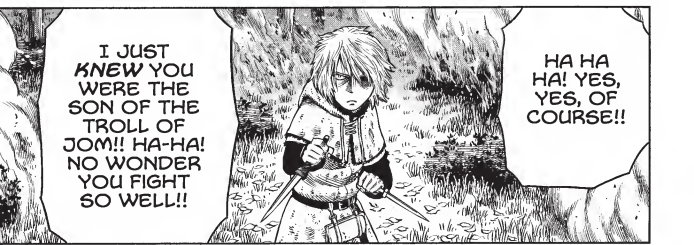






A-
HA!

GRIN



I JUST
KNEW YOU
WERE THE
SON OF THE
TROLL OF
JOM!!! HA-HA!
NO WONDER
YOU FIGHT
SO WELL!!

HA HA
HA! YES,
YES, OF
COURSE!!

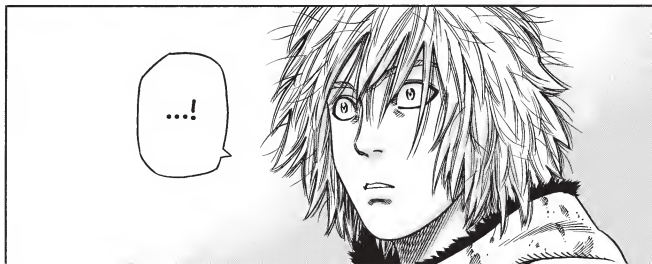


WELL!
HE
DON'T
LOOK
LIKE
HIM.

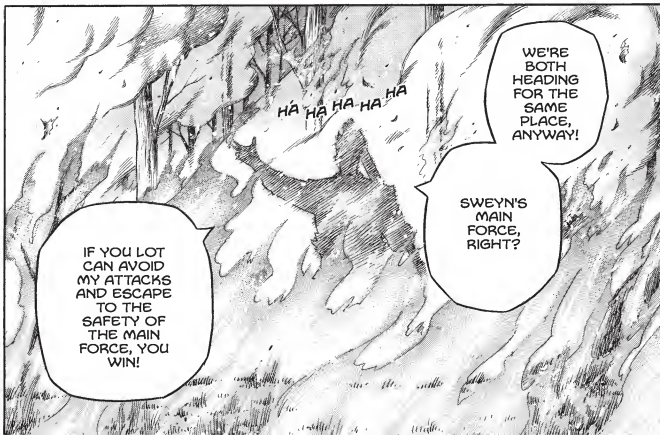
THE
SON OF
THORS
?!

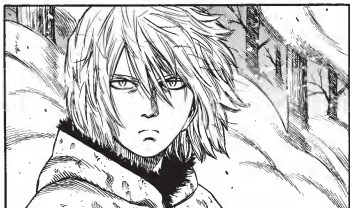
THE
TROLL
OF
JOM...

HUH.







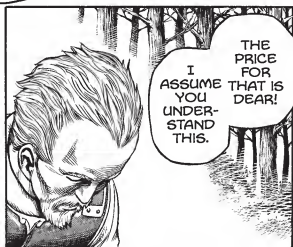
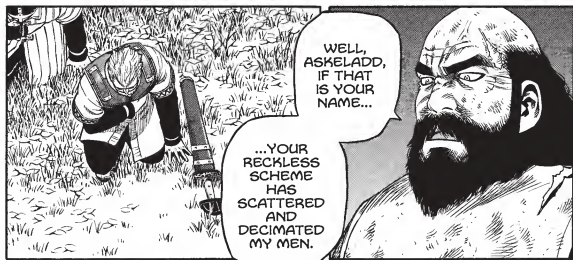


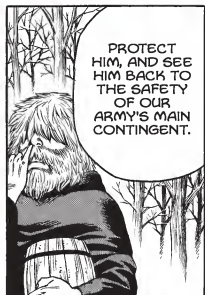


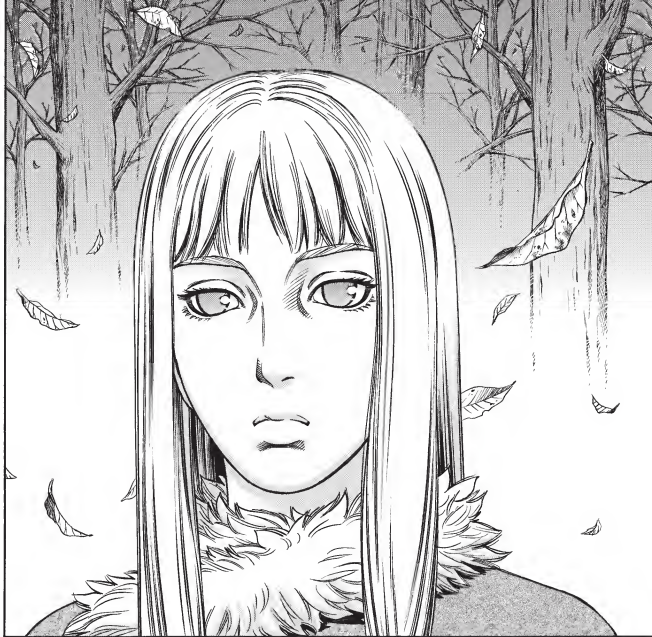






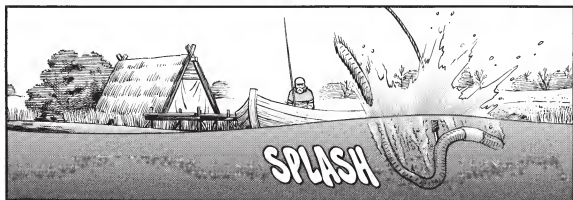






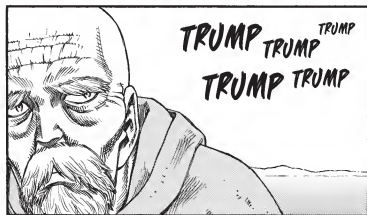
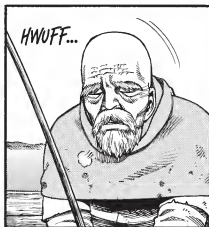
CHAPTER 23: REINFORCEMENTS

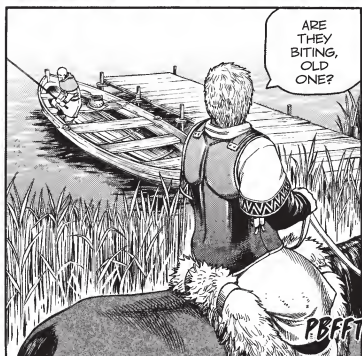
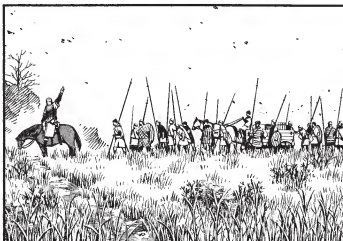
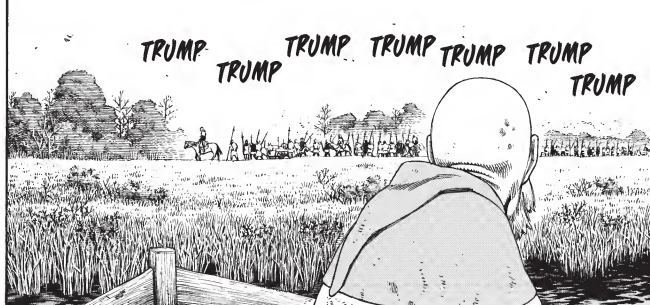


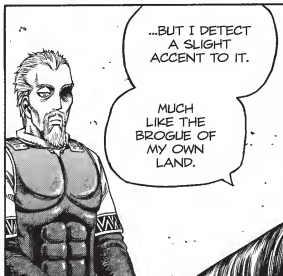
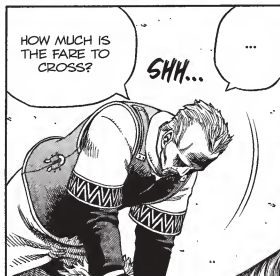
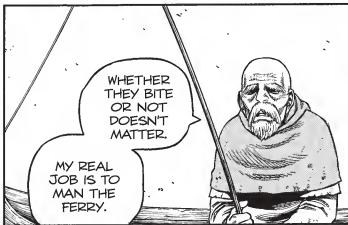
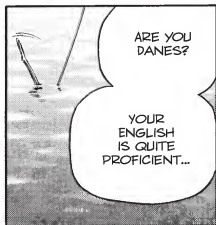


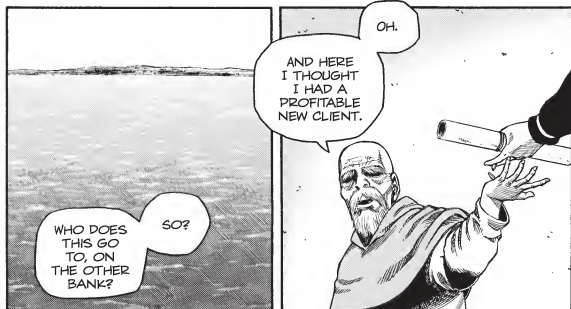
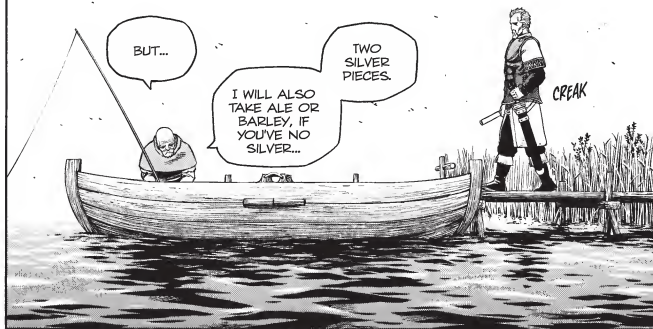
PEEP PEEP...

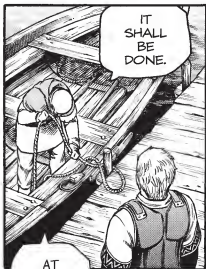
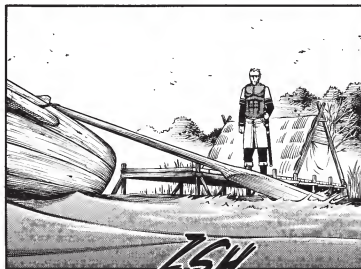
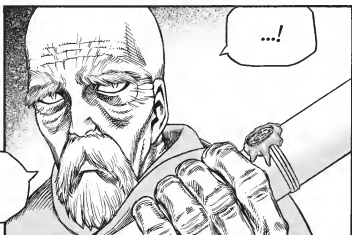
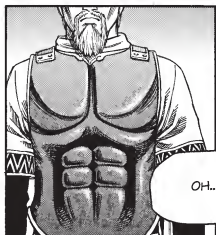
CHIRP CHIRP...

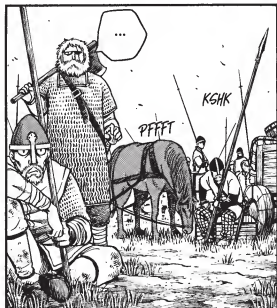
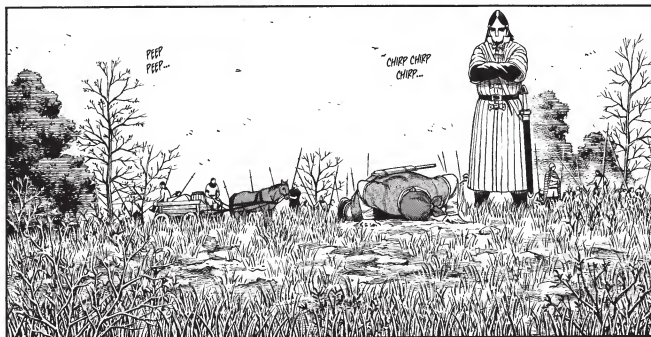














THORKELL
WILL
CATCH UP
TO US!

WHY
HAVE WE
STOPPED
MARCHING,
BJORN?!

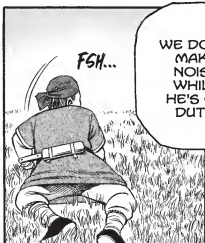
PLEASE
QUIET
DOWN,
RAGNAR.



?

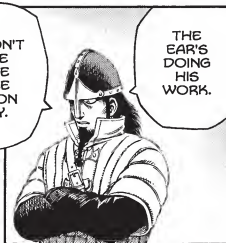
EAR?

TWITCH



FSH...

WE DON'T
MAKE
NOISE
WHILE
HE'S ON
DUTY.



THE
EAR'S
DOING
HIS
WORK.



WHAT
TID-
INGS?

EAR!

CLOP

CLOP



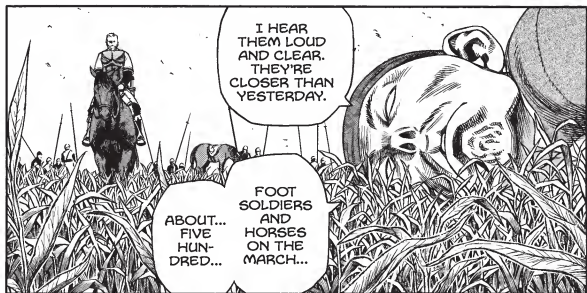
RIGHT
YOU
ARE.

CONE-
HEAD
...?

HEAR
THAT
?

I
CAN'T
HEAR.

WOULD
YOU STOP
THAT
CONEHEAD
FROM
BREATH-
ING,
BJORN?



I HEAR
THEM LOUD
AND CLEAR.
THEY'RE
CLOSER THAN
YESTERDAY.

ABOUT...
FIVE
HUNDRED...
FOOT
SOLDIERS
AND
HORSES ON THE
MARCH...



NOT A
DAY'S
MARCH
BEHIND
US.

NO DOUBT
ABOUT IT.
THEY'RE
RIGHT
ON OUR
TRAIL.



MUST
BE
SETTING
QUITE
A PACE.

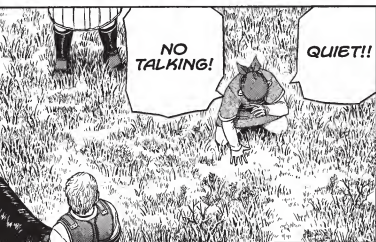
THEY'RE
MOVING
FAST.



YESTER-
DAY YOU
SAID THEY
WERE
TWO DAYS
OFF!

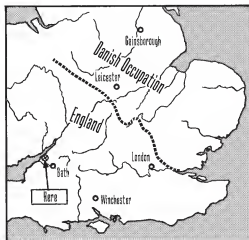
ARE
YOU
CERTAIN,
EAR?

DO YOU
DOUBT
MY
HEARING,
BJORN?









**MOUTH OF THE
EAST BANK OF THE
RIVER SEVERN,
WESTERN ENGLAND
NOVEMBER 1013**



DRUT

DRUT

DRUT

DRUT

DRUT

HMM.

YOU'RE
RIGHT,
HE
HASN'T.

YOU EVER
KNOWN
HIM TO
LIE ABOUT
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT?

WELL,
THAT'S
WHAT
ASKELADD
SAYS.

REALLY?
THAT'S
TWO
WEEKS
AWAY!

WHERE'S
THE
NEAREST
FRIENDLY
OUTPOST?

AND
THORKELL'S
RIGHT ON
OUR
HEELS!

LEICESTER,
AIN'T
IT?

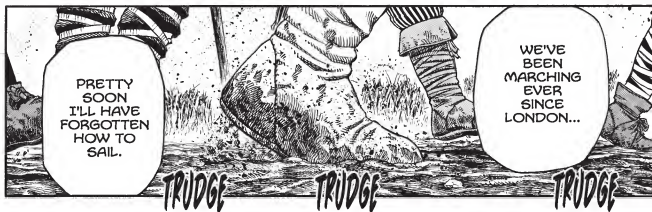
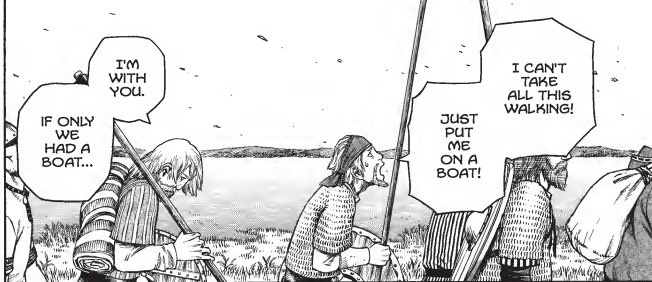
ASKELADD
SAID WE'D
HANDLE THIS
ALL WITH
JUST OUR
HUNDRED,
DIDN'T HE?

THAT'S
WHAT
I WAS
THINKING.

DO WE
WANT
THAT?

WAIT, IF THEY
DO SHOW
UP, WON'T
WE HAVE TO
SPLIT THE
SPOILS WITH
'EM?

YOU THINK
THOSE
REINFORCE-
MENTS
WILL COME
IN TIME?





A LITTLE
FEAR WILL
HASTEN
THEIR
STEP.

LET
'EM BE
SHAKEN.

SNORR

*KOFF
KOFF*

GZZZ...

GZZZ



THE
MEN ARE
RATTLED.

THEY
NEED AN
EXPLANA-
TION.

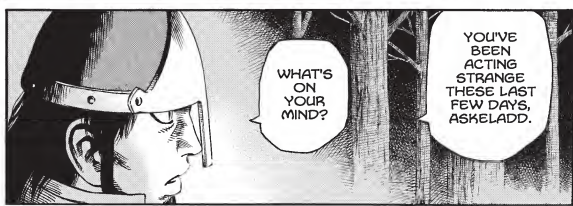


WHAT?

IF THAT'S
ALL, GET
SOME
SLEEP
YOURSELF,
BJORN.

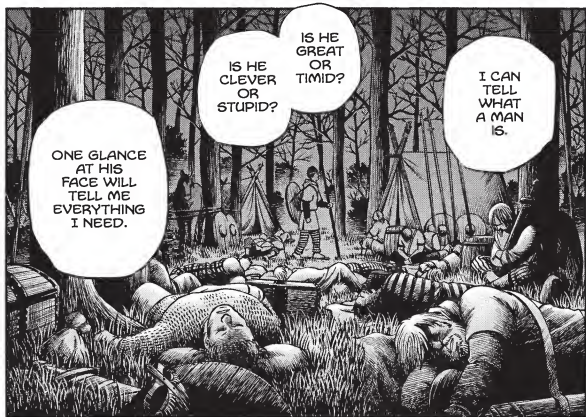


...



WHAT'S
ON
YOUR
MIND?

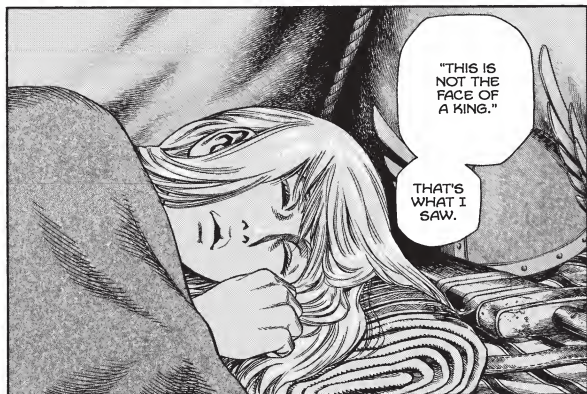
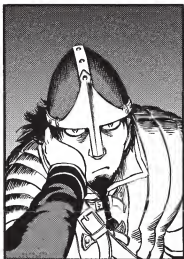
YOU'VE
BEEN
ACTING
STRANGE
THESE LAST
FEW DAYS,
ASKELADD.





I TOOK
A SINGLE
LOOK AT
PRINCE
CANUTE...

...AND I
KNEW HIM
FOR WHAT
HE WAS...



"THIS IS
NOT THE
FACE OF
A KING."

THAT'S
WHAT I
SAW.



BUT HE'S
ONLY A
BOY OF
SEVENTEEN.

COULDN'T
HE
CHANGE
AS HE
GETS
OLDER?

AYE.

HE DOES
LOOK
FAIRLY
GIRLISH.



...WELL
...I
SUPPOSE...

HE'S
JUST
A LAD,
AFTER
ALL.



**RISE
AND
SHINE,
BOYS!**

WAIT,
YOU'RE
NOT
SAYING...

...!



DWAAH?!

IT'S
STILL
PITCH-
BLACK
OUT...

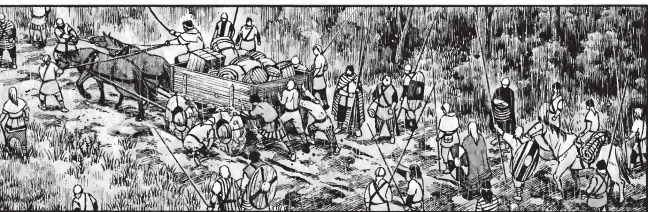
I'M
SLEEPY...

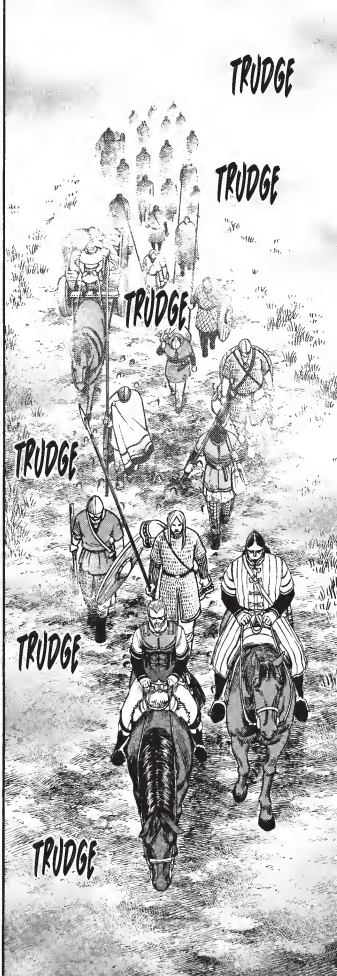
OR DO
YOU WANT
THORKELL
TO CATCH
US IN OUR
SLEEP?!

PREPARE
TO
MARCH
!!

WHAAA?!

UNGG...







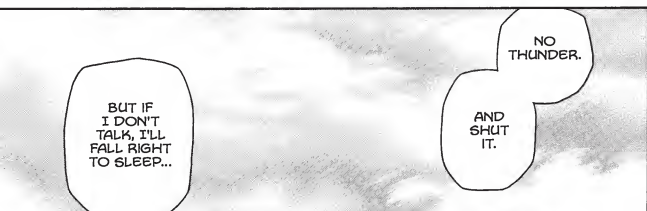
MAYBE
THERE'S
RAIN.

D'YOU
HEAR
FAR-OFF
THUNDER
?



WHAT?
DON'T
TALK TO
ME.

HEY.



BUT IF
I DON'T
TALK, I'LL
FALL RIGHT
TO SLEEP...

NO
THUNDER.

AND
SHUT
IT.



I KNOW.
DON'T
REMINDE
ME.

YEAH.

THEY'RE
COM-
ING.

IT'S
BAD,
ASKE-
LADD...



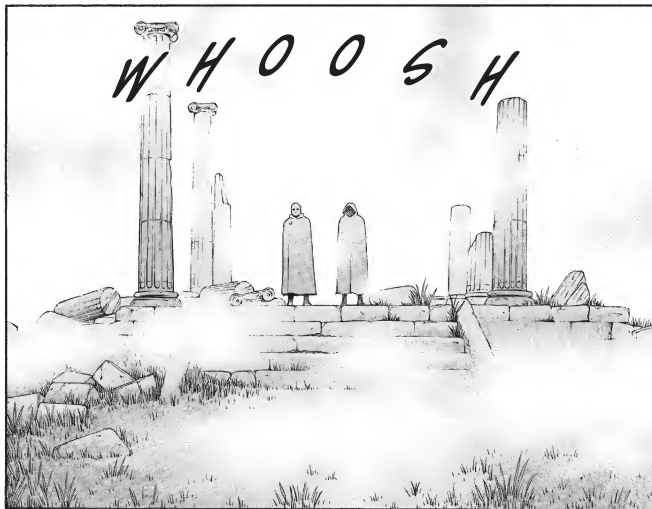
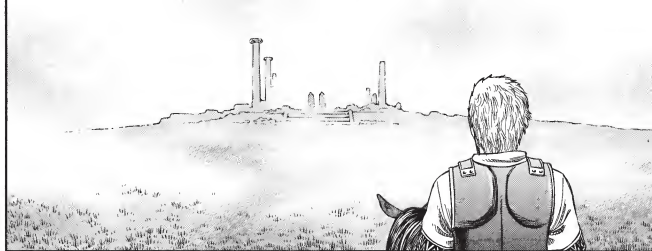
RIGHT
UP
THERE.

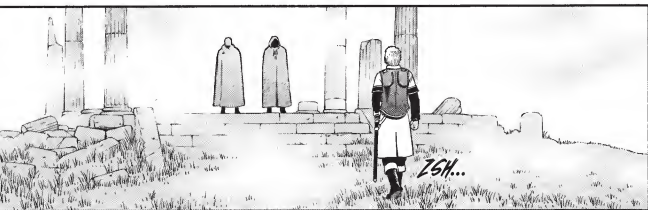
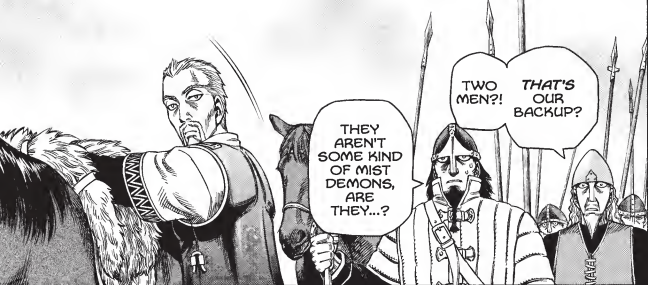
WE'RE
ALMOST
TO THE
MEETING
POINT.

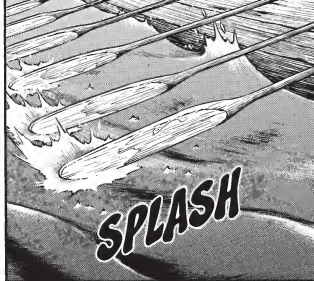


TWITCH

TWITCH

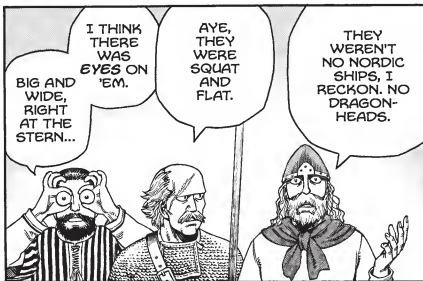
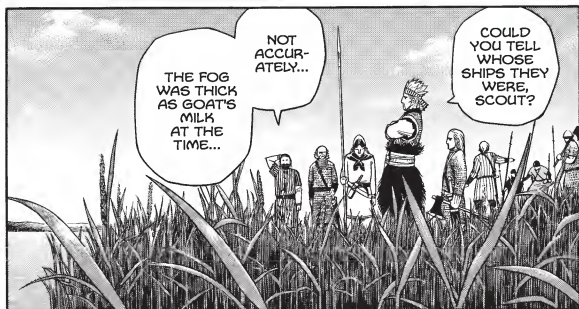


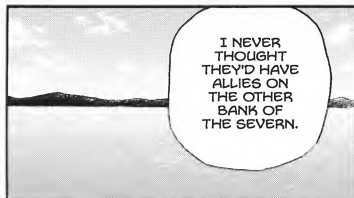




CHAPTER 24: THE LAND ON THE FAR BANK





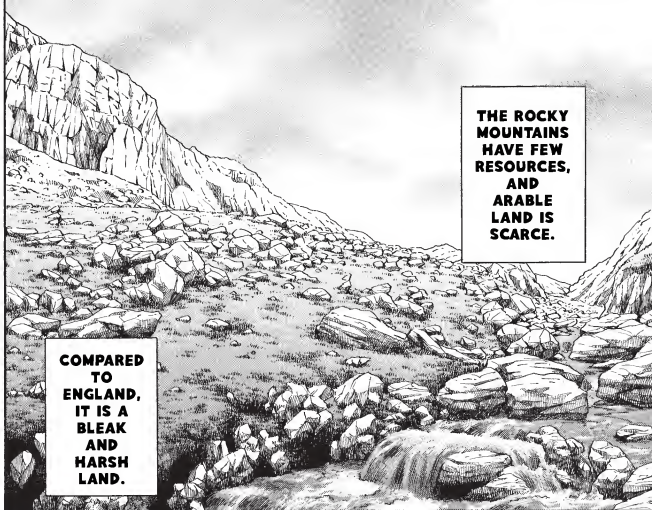






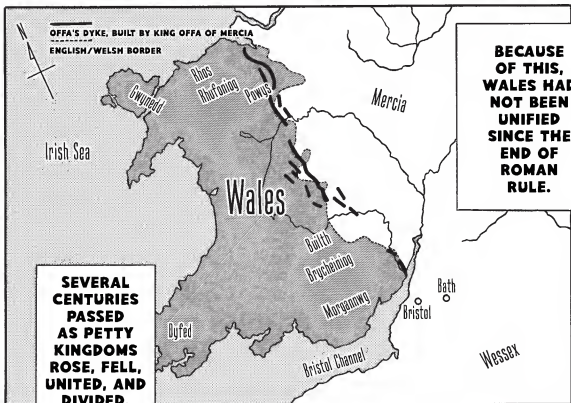
WALES.

**A
MOUN-
TAINOUS
LAND
WEST
OF
ENGLAND.**



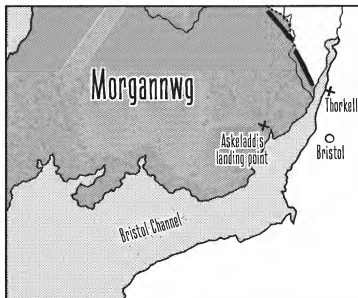
THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS HAVE FEW RESOURCES, AND ARABLE LAND IS SCARCE.

COMPARED TO ENGLAND, IT IS A BLEAK AND HARSH LAND.



BECAUSE OF THIS, WALES HAD NOT BEEN UNIFIED SINCE THE END OF ROMAN RULE.

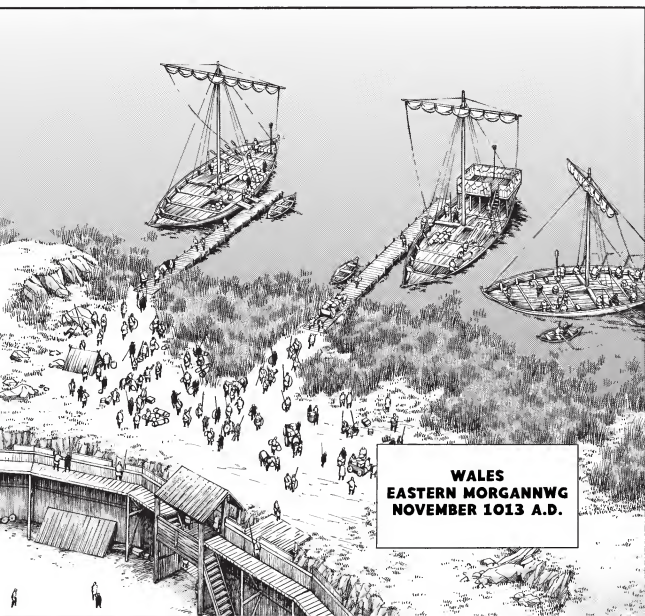
SEVERAL CENTURIES PASSED AS PETTY KINGDOMS ROSE, FELL, UNITED, AND DIVIDED.



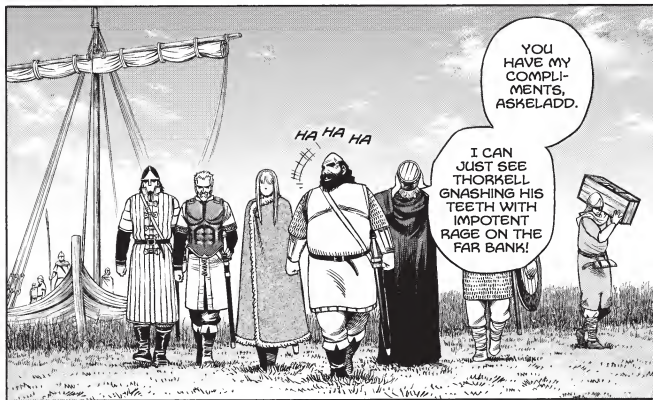
IT WAS
ONE OF
THESE
PRINCI-
PALITIES...

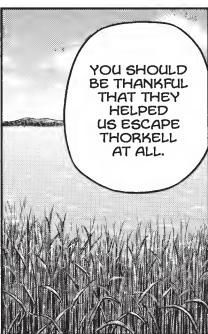
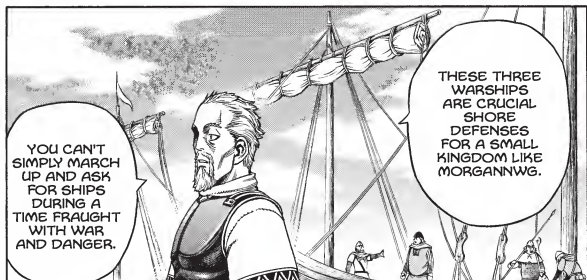
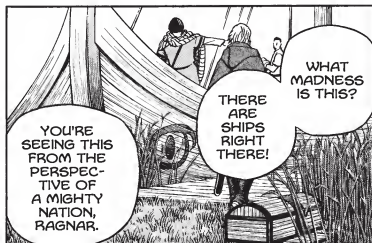
...THAT
RESPONDED
TO
ASKE-
LADD'S
REQUEST.

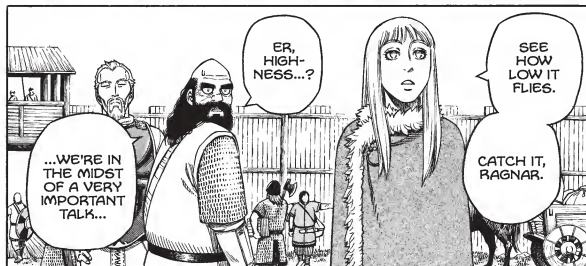
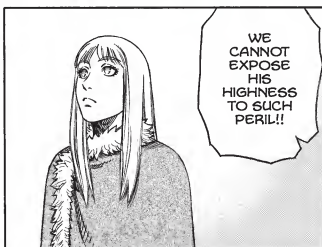
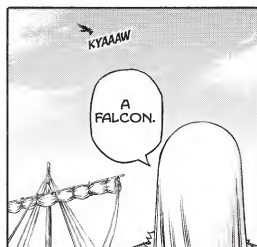
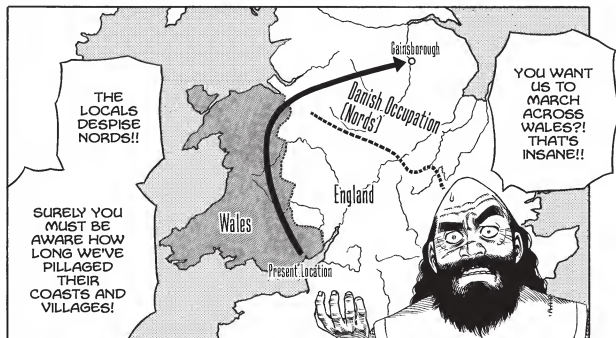
Wessex



WALES
EASTERN MORGANNWG
NOVEMBER 1013 A.D.



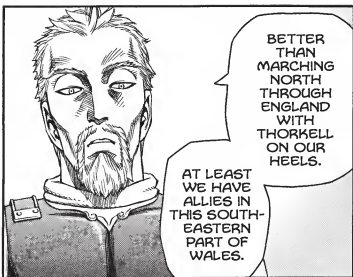






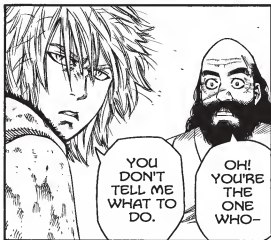
THOR-FINN!

BUT IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED...



BETTER THAN MARCHING NORTH THROUGH ENGLAND WITH THORKELL ON OUR HEELS.

AT LEAST WE HAVE ALLIES IN THIS SOUTH-EASTERN PART OF WALES.



YOU DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO.

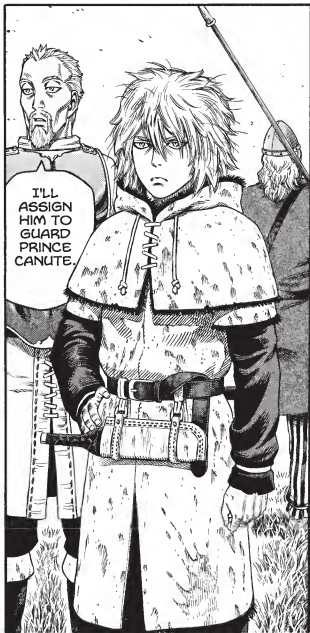
OH! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO-



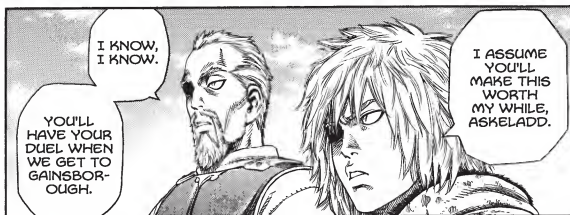
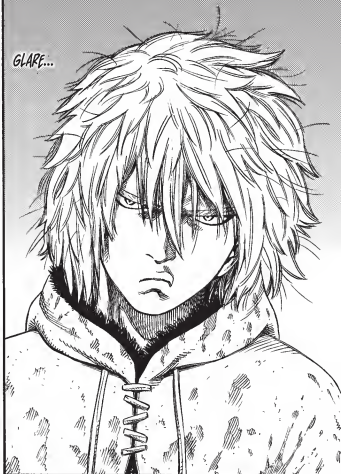
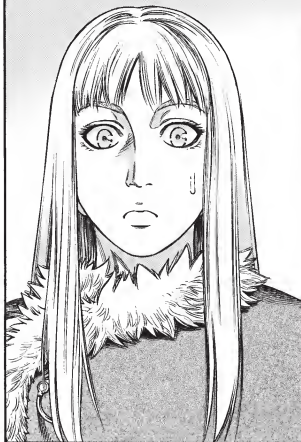
HE'S SMALL OF STATURE, BUT SKILLED WITH THE BLADE.

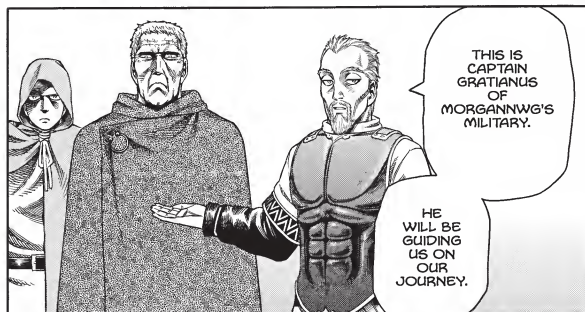
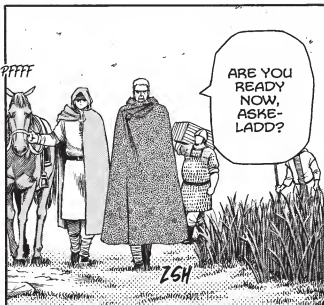
AND HE'S THE SAME AGE AS THE PRINCE. THEY'LL GET ALONG WELL.

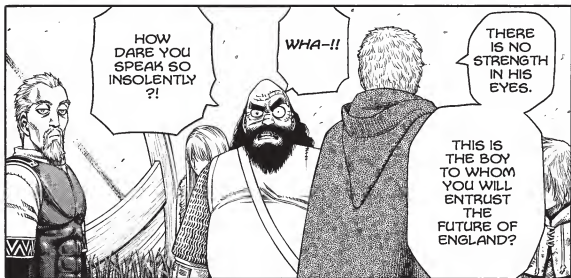
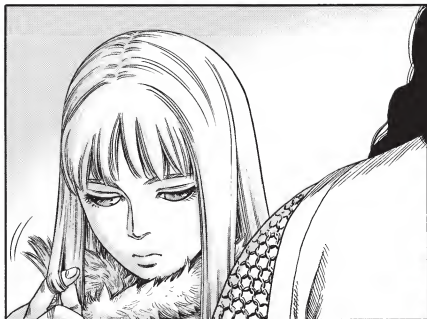
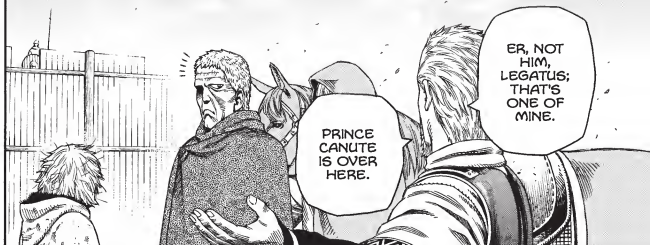
INTRODUCE YOURSELF, THOR-FINN.

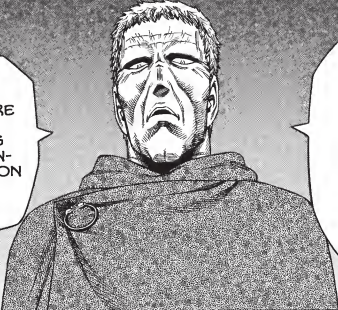


I'LL ASSIGN HIM TO GUARD PRINCE CANUTE.









TO ENSURE
THE
FORGING
OF A NON-
AGGRESSION
TREATY.

THERE IS
ONLY ONE
REASON
FOR WALES
TO AID THE
DANISH
PRINCE IN HIS
ESCAPE.



SWEAR THAT
ONCE YOU
ARE KING OF
ENGLAND,
YOU WILL NOT
INTERFERE
IN WELSH
MATTERS.

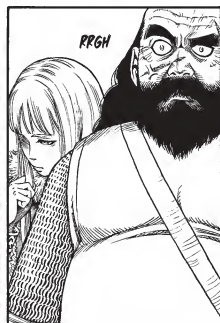
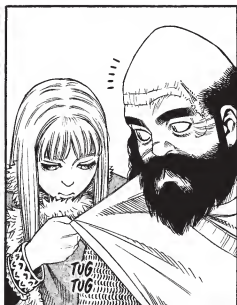


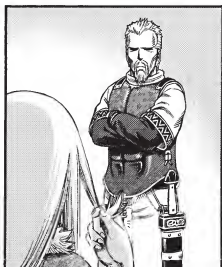
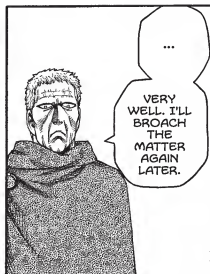
THAT
RELIES
UPON
YOUR
WORD.

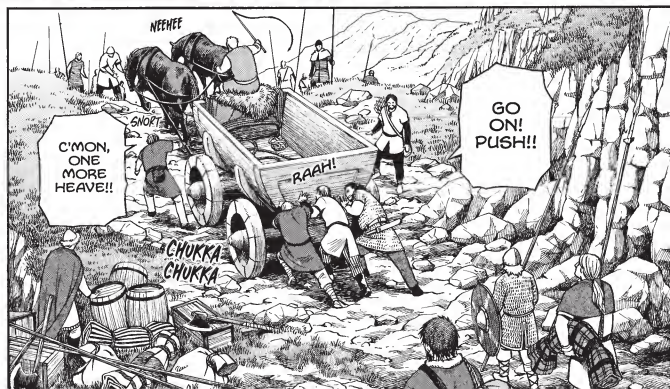
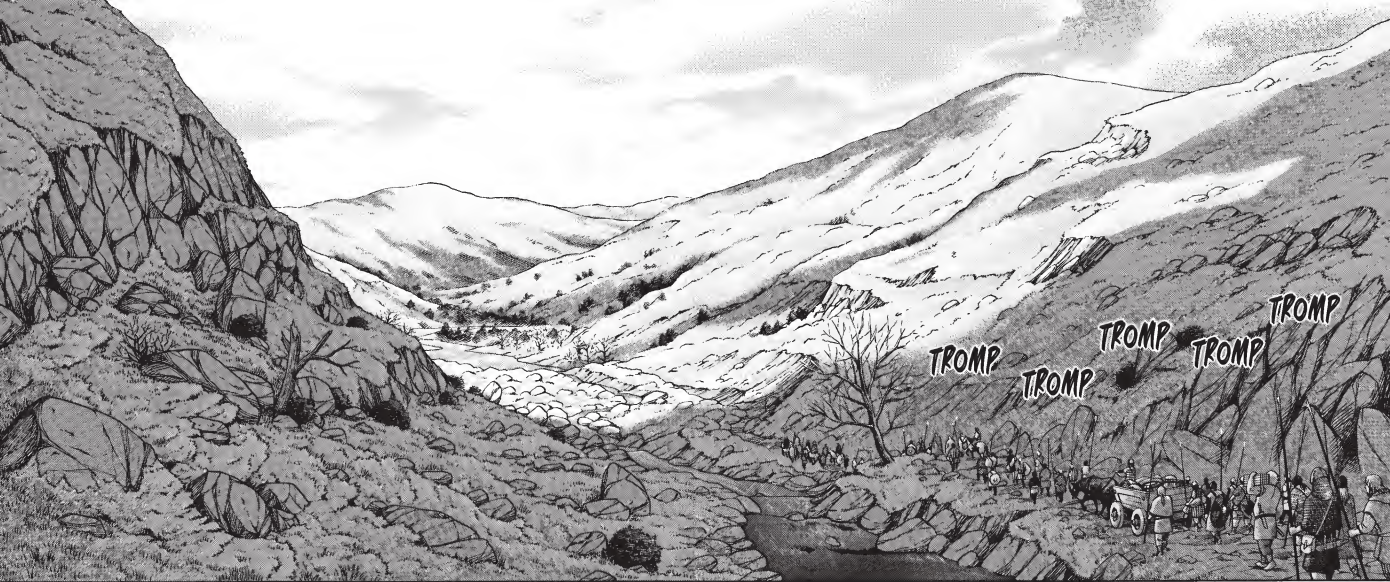
SWEAR
TO ME,
PRINCE.



...









WE SAVED
HIS
PRECIOUS
SON FROM
THORKELL'S
GRASP,
DIDN'T WE?

KING
SWEYN'S
REWARD.



KAAW

NICE?
LIKE
WHAT?

WHAT
ELSE?

KAWKAWK



A BIG
HUGE
BARREL,
FULL TO
THE BRIM
WITH
COINS!

I'LL
TAKE
SILVER!

OR A
NICE
NEW
SWORD.

IT'S BEEN A
HELL OF A
SLOG. I'D
AT LEAST
APPRECIATE
A FARM OR
TWO.



I'VE HEARD
DIFFERENT
RUMORS
ABOUT THE
PALACE.

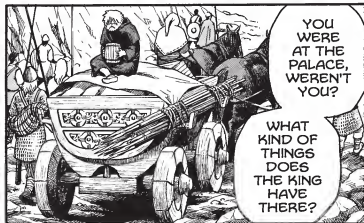
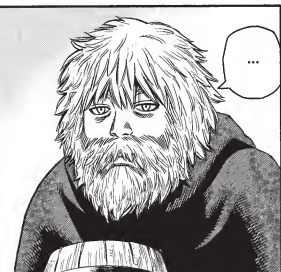
THAT THE
KING'S GOT
A HUNDRED
BEAUTIFUL
SLAVES TO
KEEP HIS
BEDCHAMBERS
WARM EVERY
NIGHT.

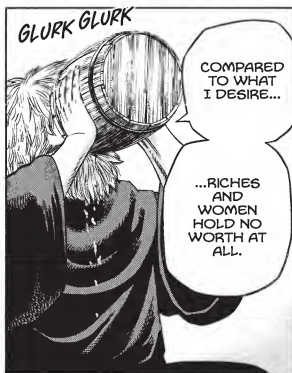
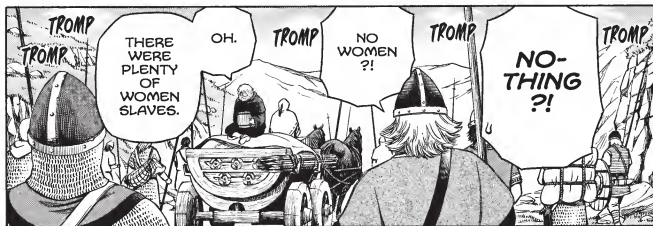


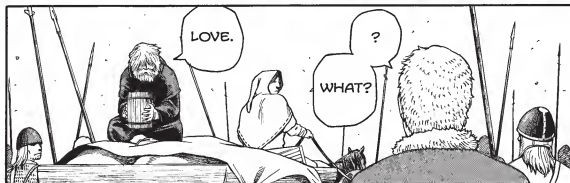
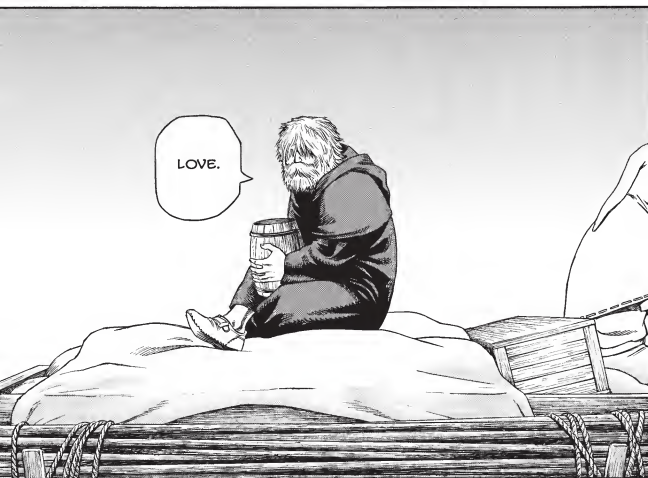
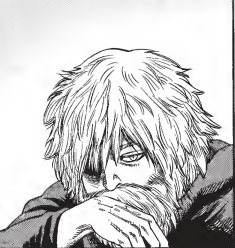
I'VE HEARD
THE ROYAL
PALACE IN
JELLING HAS
HORSES
WITH MANES
OF GOLD.

WHAT
ABOUT A
LEGEND-
ARY
STEED?

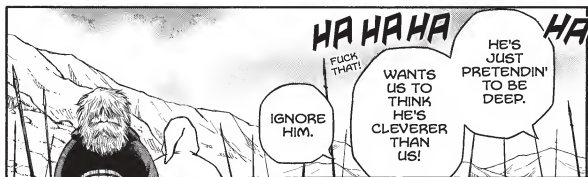
OOH,
I LIKE
THAT.

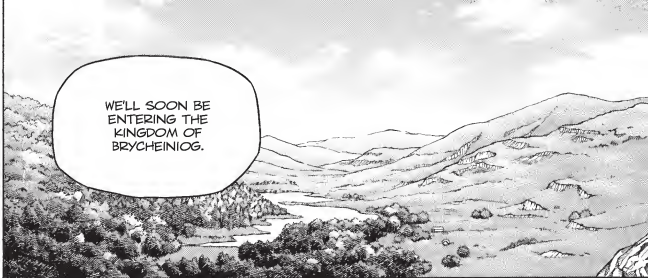












WE'LL SOON BE
ENTERING THE
KINGDOM OF
BRYCHEINIOG.



TROMP

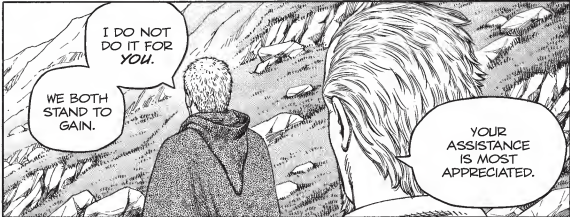
TROMP

TROMP

TROMP

FEAR NOT;
I'VE SENT
WORD
AHEAD.

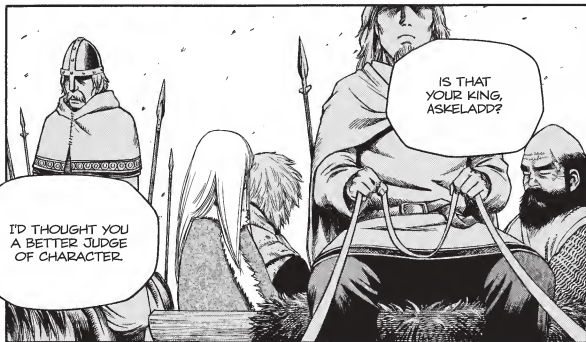
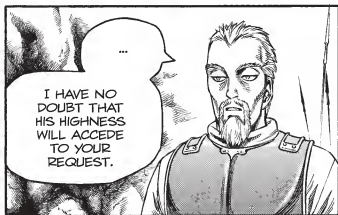
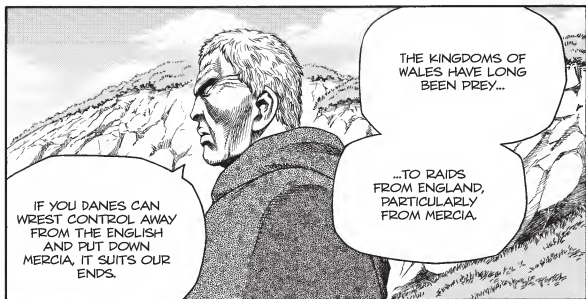
THEY
WILL NOT
HARRY OUR
PASSAGE.



I DO NOT
DO IT FOR
YOU.

WE BOTH
STAND TO
GAIN.

YOUR
ASSISTANCE
IS MOST
APPRECIATED.

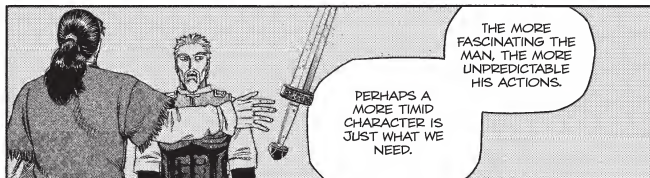




HE IS
YOUNG,
WITH
ROOM TO
GROW.

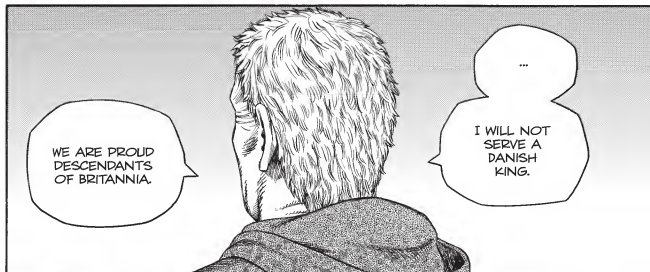
AS FOR
THE
REST...
WELL...

HIS
BLOODLINE
IS ABOVE
REPROACH.



PERHAPS A
MORE TIMID
CHARACTER IS
JUST WHAT WE
NEED.

THE MORE
FASCINATING THE
MAN, THE MORE
UNPREDICTABLE
HIS ACTIONS.



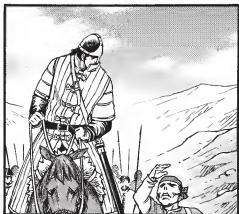
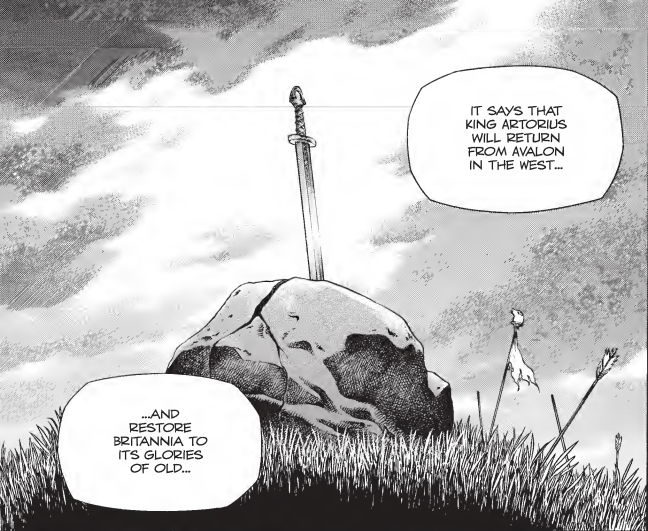
WE ARE PROUD
DESCENDANTS
OF BRITANNIA.

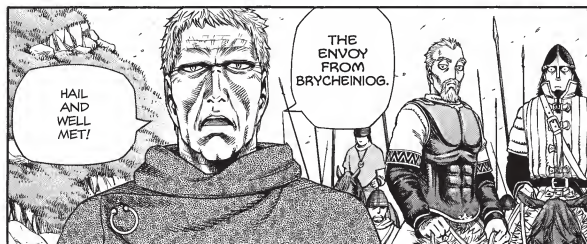
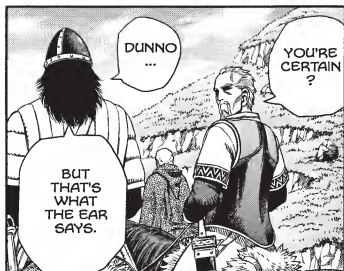
...
I WILL NOT
SERVE A
DANISH
KING.

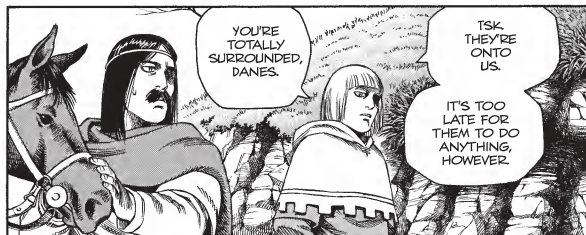
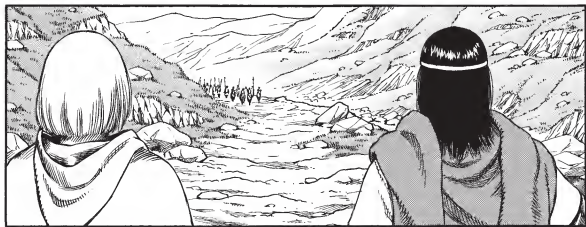


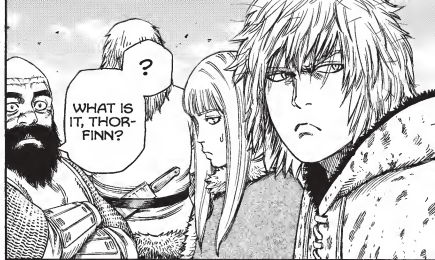
DO YOU
STILL
BELIEVE
THE
LEGEND?

...GRATIANUS...









CHAPTER 25: BLUFF



ZMMM

BABAM

BAM

BAM

BABABAM

THUK

THUK

THUK



GREE HEE HEE

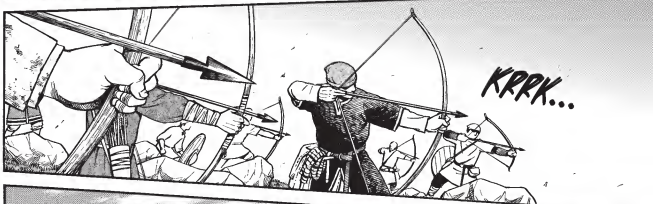
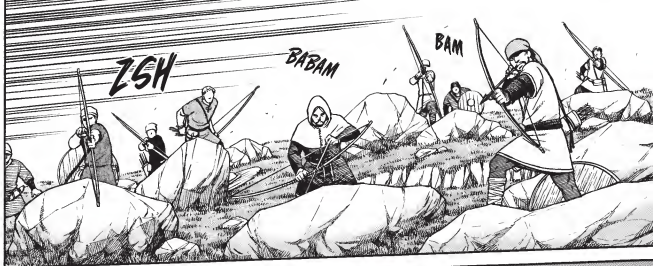
WHOOPS!

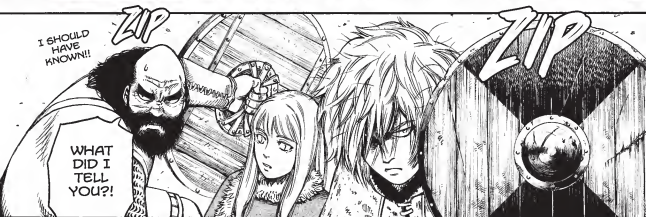
HOP

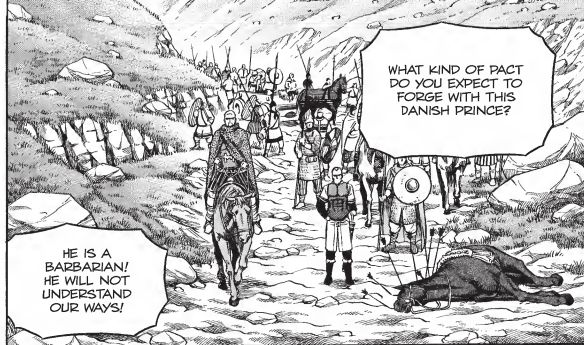


ZSH



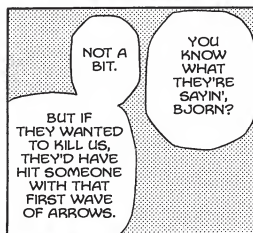






HE IS A
BARBARIAN!
HE WILL NOT
UNDERSTAND
OUR WAYS!

WHAT KIND OF PACT
DO YOU EXPECT TO
FORGE WITH THIS
DANISH PRINCE?



NOT A
BIT.

YOU
KNOW
WHAT
THEY'RE
SAYIN',
BJORN?

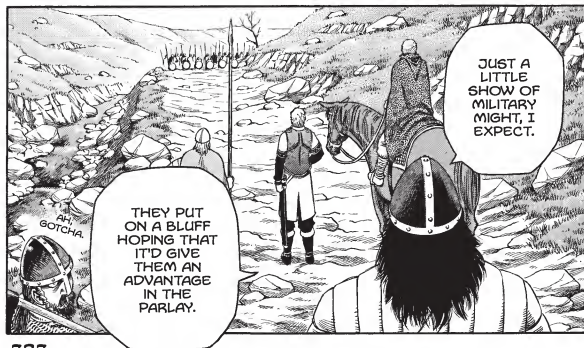
BUT IF
THEY WANTED
TO KILL US,
THEY'D HAVE
HIT SOMEONE
WITH THAT
FIRST WAVE
OF ARROWS.



ARE WE
GOING
TO FIGHT,
OR NOT?
WHAT'S
THE
HOLD-UP?

WHAT'S
HE
SCREECH-
IN' ON
ABOUT?

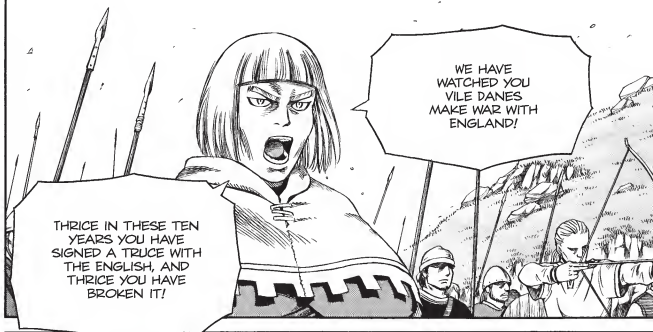
THIS
AIN'T
GONNA
BE A
BATTLE.



AH,
GOTCHA.

THEY PUT
ON A BLUFF
HOPING THAT
IT'D GIVE
THEM AN
ADVANTAGE
IN THE
PARLAY.

JUST A
LITTLE
SHOW OF
MILITARY
MIGHT, I
EXPECT.



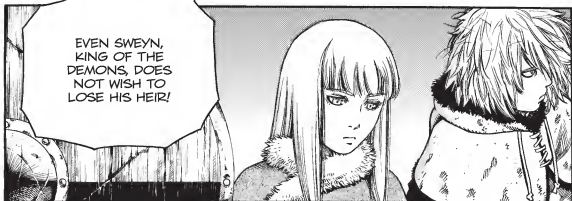
THRICE IN THESE TEN
YEARS YOU HAVE
SIGNED A TRUCE WITH
THE ENGLISH, AND
THRICE YOU HAVE
BROKEN IT!

WE HAVE
WATCHED YOU
VILE DANES
MAKE WAR WITH
ENGLAND!

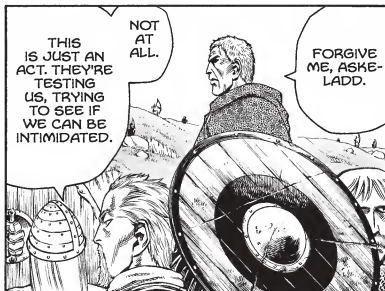


WE WILL
SEIZE THE
PRINCE
AND USE
HIM AS OUR
SHIELD!

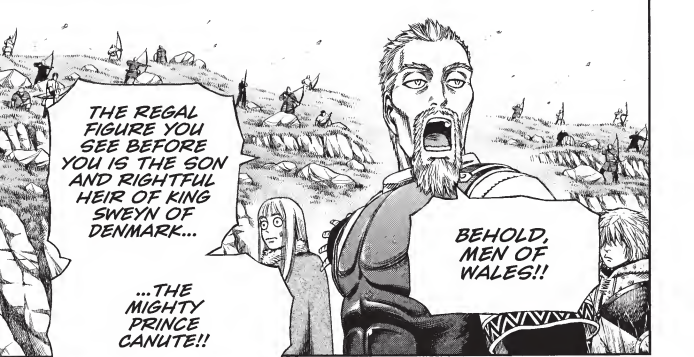
OUR KINGDOM
WILL NOT REPEAT
ENGLAND'S
MISTAKES!



EVEN SWEYN,
KING OF THE
DEMONS, DOES
NOT WISH TO
LOSE HIS HEIR!







THE REGAL
FIGURE YOU
SEE BEFORE
YOU IS THE SON
AND RIGHTFUL
HEIR OF KING
SWEYN OF
DENMARK...

...THE
MIGHTY
PRINCE
CANUTE!!

BEHOLD,
MEN OF
WALES!!



HIS
HIGHNESS
WILL SPEAK
TO YOU
NOW!!

TREAT HIS
WORDS WITH
THE RESPECT
THEY DESERVE!!



NOW,
YOUR
HIGHNESS.

I'LL
INTERPRET.
YOU
JUST SAY
SOMETHING
FIERCE.

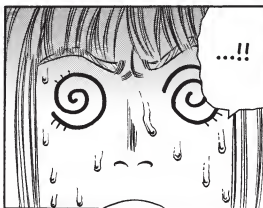
RATTLE

RATTLE



SIMPLY
EXPRESS
YOUR
DISPLEASURE
WITH THEIR
LACK OF
OBEDIENCE.

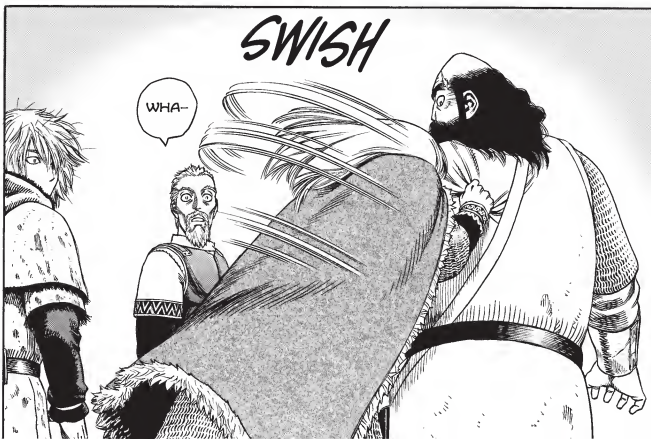
ANYTHING
AT ALL.
"I'LL MAKE
A STEW
WITH YOUR
BONES,"
OR SOME
SUCH.



...!!

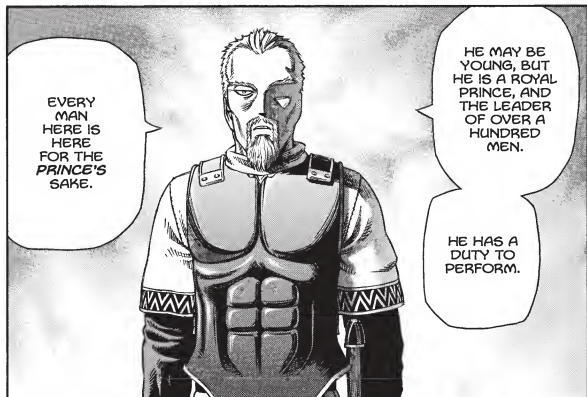
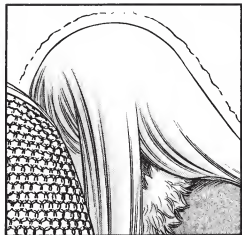


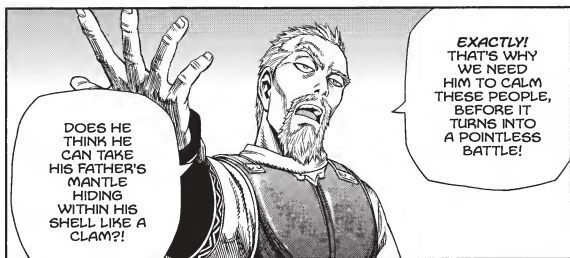
IF YOU
SPEAK,
THEIR BALLS
WILL SHRIVEL
INTO THEIR
SACKS, AND
THEY'LL LET
US PASS.

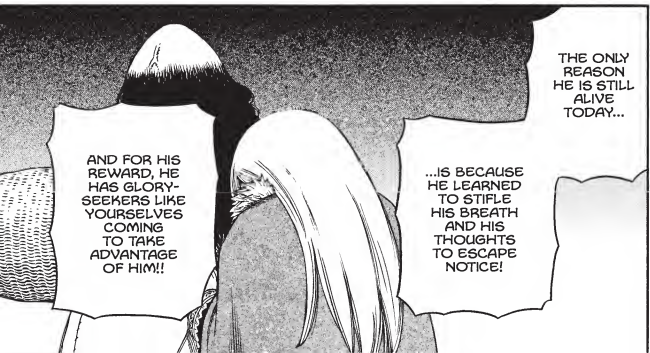
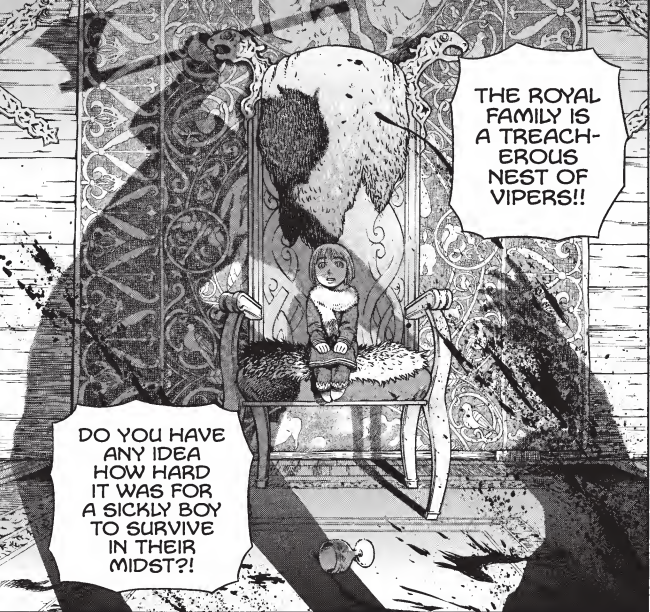


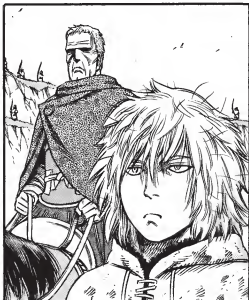
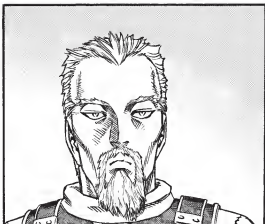
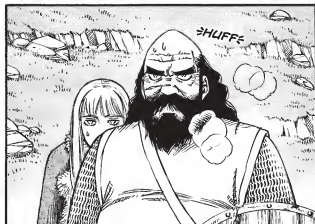
SWISH

WHA--

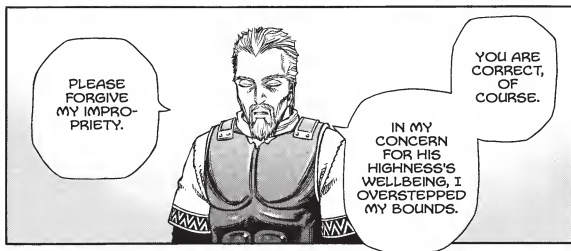


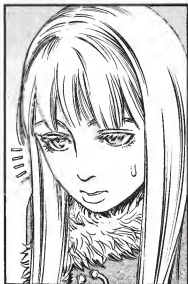
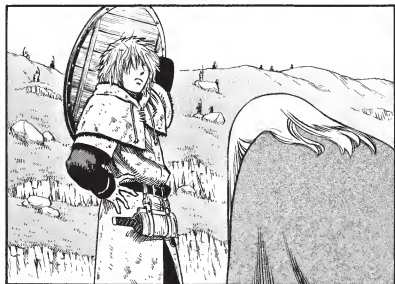
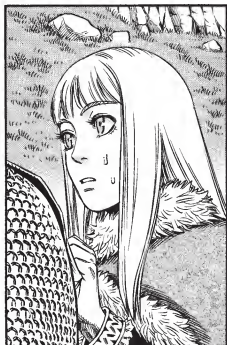


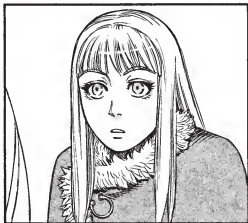


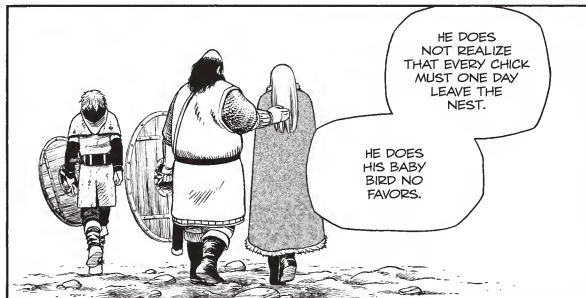
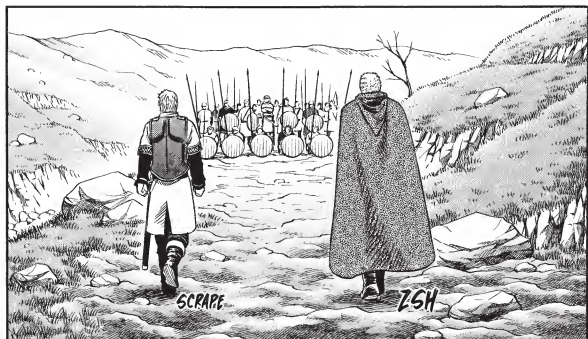














FIRST,
THE BIRD MUST
FLY ON HIS OWN
WINGS...

IT SEEMS
YOU HAVE
MANY TASKS
AHEAD...

...FOR THE
SAKE OF THIS
"PLAN" YOU
FOLLOW.



YES...

I'M
AWARE.

CHAPTER 26: ARTORIUS





WE NEED
NO
RETINUE.

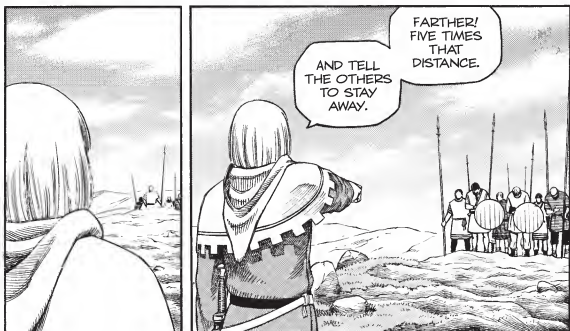
BEGONE.



IT WOULD BE A
STAIN UPON THE
BRYCHEINIOW ROYAL
FAMILY IF THE DANES
BELIEVED I COULD
NOT NEGOTIATE
WITHOUT AN ARMED
GUARD.

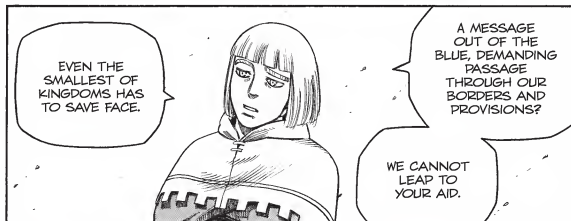
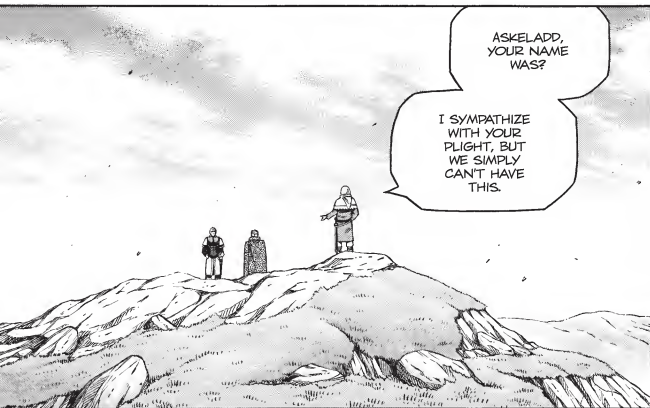
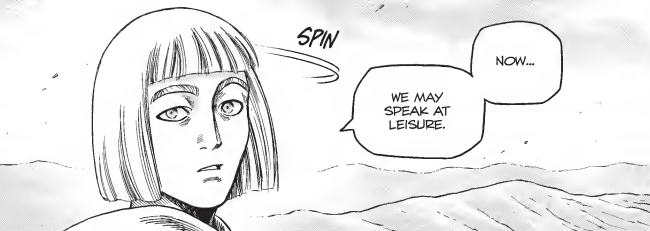
SHALL I
REPEAT
MYSELF?

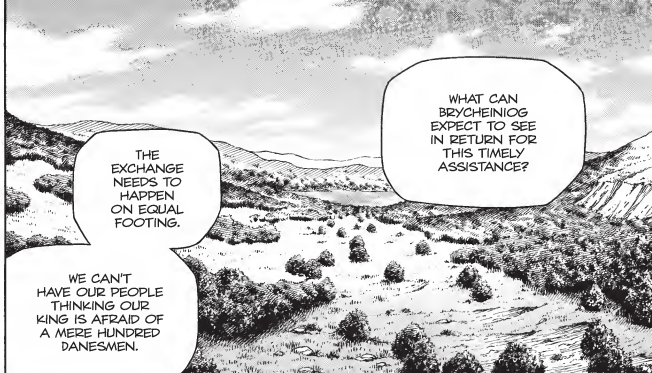
B-BUT,
LORD
ASSER...



AND TELL
THE OTHERS
TO STAY
AWAY.

FARTHER!
FIVE TIMES
THAT
DISTANCE.





THE
EXCHANGE
NEEDS TO
HAPPEN
ON EQUAL
FOOTING.

WHAT CAN
BRYCHEINIOW
EXPECT TO SEE
IN RETURN FOR
THIS TIMELY
ASSISTANCE?

WE CAN'T
HAVE OUR PEOPLE
THINKING OUR
KING IS AFRAID OF
A MERE HUNDRED
DANESMEN.



OF COURSE, YOU
WOULD LOSE FACE
ACCEDING TO OUR
REQUEST WITHOUT
RECOMPENSE.

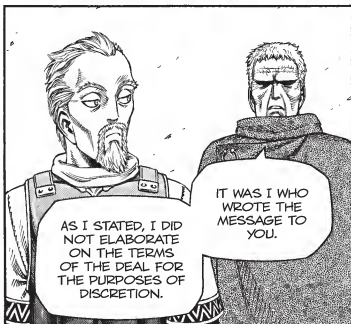
THIS
FELLOW'S
SHARPER
THAN I
THOUGHT...

I APOLOGIZE
FOR MY
LACK OF
FORETHOUGHT.



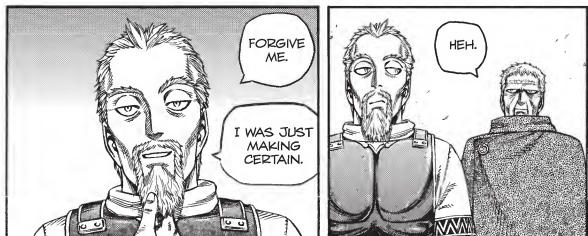
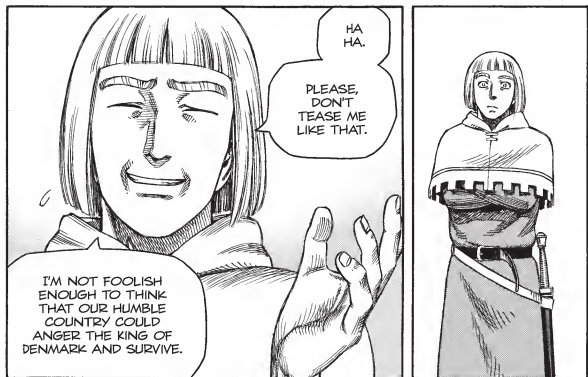
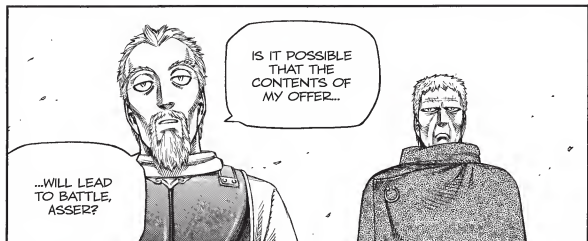
I READ THE
LETTER,
GRATIANUS.

WHAT DO YOU
OFFER THAT IS
SO SENSITIVE?

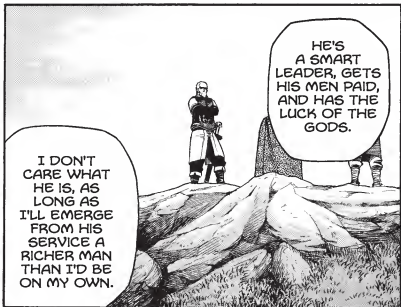


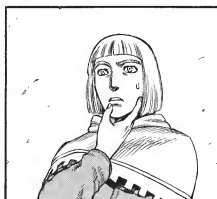
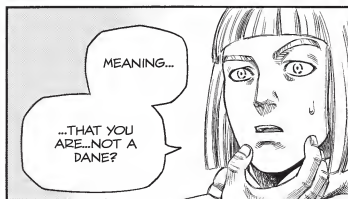
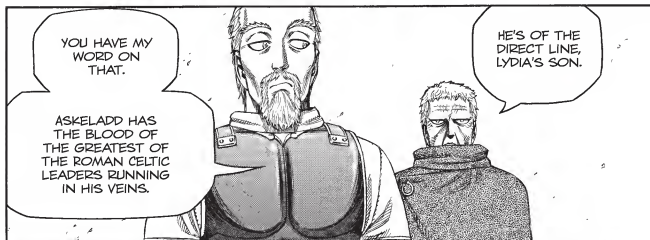
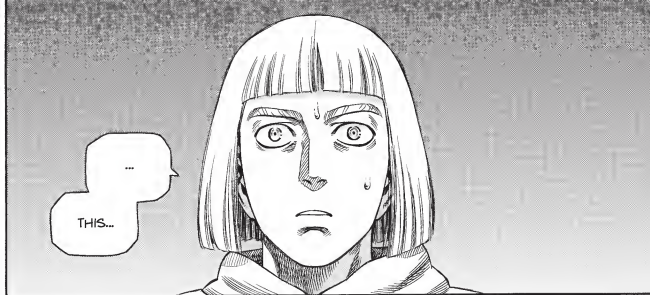
AS I STATED, I DID
NOT ELABORATE
ON THE TERMS
OF THE DEAL FOR
THE PURPOSES OF
DISCRETION.

IT WAS I WHO
WROTE THE
MESSAGE TO
YOU.









A close-up of a man with a beard and intense eyes, looking slightly to the right. He has a serious expression.

MY FATHER OLAF
ONCE RAIDED THE
COAST OF WALES
AND TOOK MY
MOTHER LYDIA AS
HIS CONCUBINE.

SHE GAVE
BIRTH TO
ME.

I AM HALF-
WELSH, HALF-
NORDIC.

A man with a beard, wearing a tunic and a belt, is walking through a field of tall grass. He is looking down at the ground.

BUT I HAD
ALWAYS HEARD
THAT THE
BLOODLINE OF
THE HERO OF
OLD BRITANNIA
HAD DIED OUT.

...YOU ARE
TRULY THE
DESCENDENT
OF THE GREAT
ARTORIUS?!

A woman with short hair is looking up at the man. She has a surprised expression.

YOU
CLAIM...



ARTORIUS.

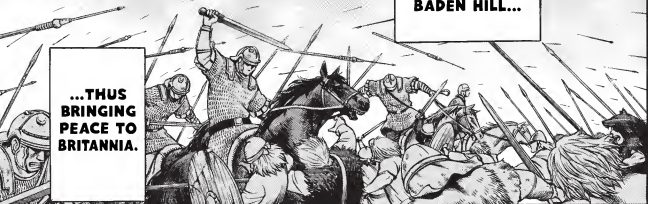
**A MILITARY
LEADER OF
BRITANNIA-
THE CELTIC
PREDECESSOR
TO ENGLAND-
WHO LIVED
IN THE FIFTH
AND SIXTH
CENTURIES A.D.**



ACCORDING
TO WELSH
HISTORICAL
ACCOUNTS,
IN THE YEAR
516...

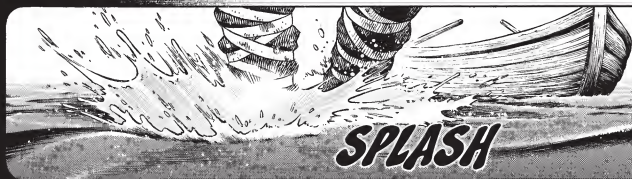
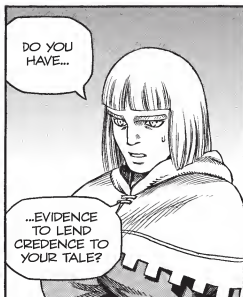
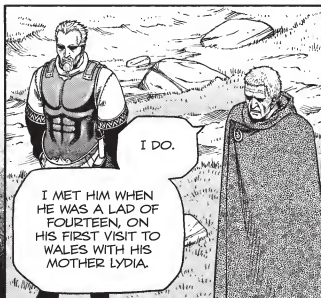
...THE
INVADING
SAXONS (WHO
LATER BECAME
THE ENGLISH)
WERE
SOUNDLY
CRUSHED BY
ARTORIUS'S
ARMY AT THE
BATTLE OF
BADEN HILL...

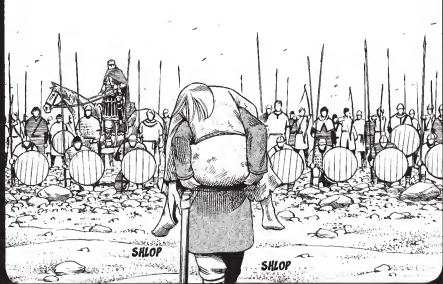
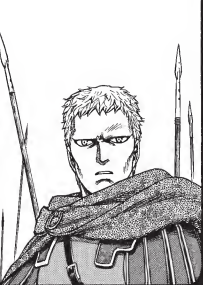
...THUS
BRINGING
PEACE TO
BRITANNIA.



HE FORMED
THE BASIS
FOR THE
LEGEND
OF KING
ARTHUR, AS
IT IS KNOWN
TODAY.







SAID WANTS
COME
HOME. I
BRING.

MOTHER
DIES
SOON.

SICK.

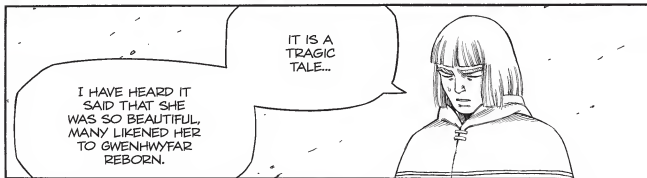




SHE
WAS AN
UNLUCKY
WOMAN.

MY FATHER
KEPT HER
TRAPPED IN
HIS BEDROOM
FOR MOST OF
HER LIFE...

...AND WHEN
SHE FELL
SICK, SHE WAS
SENT TO THE
STABLES.



IT IS A
TRAGIC
TALE...

I HAVE HEARD IT
SAID THAT SHE
WAS SO BEAUTIFUL,
MANY LIKENED HER
TO GWENHWYFAR
REBORN.



THAT THE LAST
MAN IN SUCH A
GREAT LINE...

...IS SOILED
WITH THE
BLOOD OF
A DANE.



AND IF
YOU DON'T
MIND MY
SAYING...

...IT IS A
SHAME.



BUT THAT'S
JUST IT, SIR
ASSER.

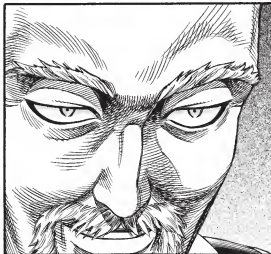
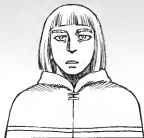
MY MIXED
BLOOD IS
THE KEY.



I'VE
ASSIMILATED
INTO NORDIC
SOCIETY.

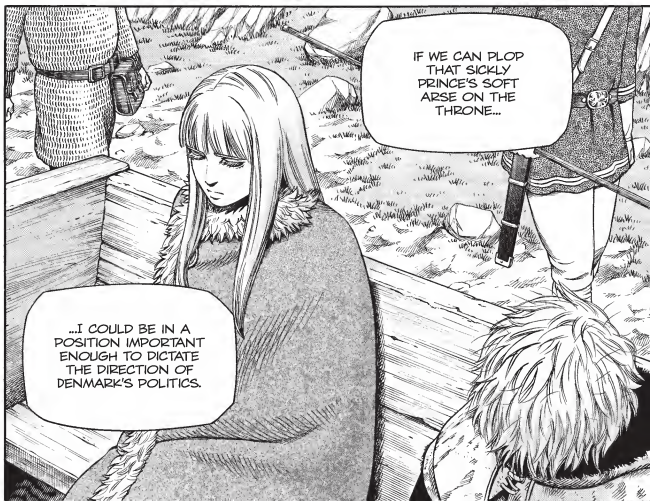
WITH THIS
LATEST SUCCESS,
I WILL SECURE EVEN
GREATER STATUS
AMONG THEM.

THE LORDS OF
WALES WILL HAVE
A POWERFUL AGENT
RISING THROUGH
THE RANKS OF THE
MIGHTY DANISH
ARMY.



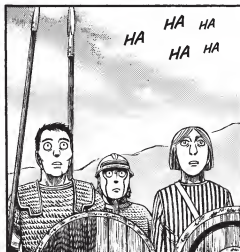
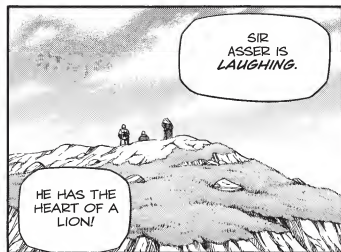
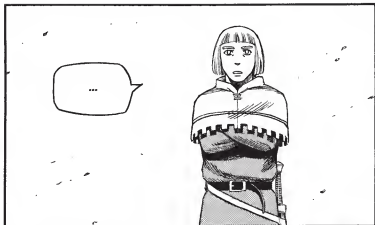
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE A
PRINCIPAL FIGURE WITHIN
THE FACTION OF PRINCE
CANUTE, THE SECOND
PRINCE IN LINE FOR THE
THRONE OF DENMARK.

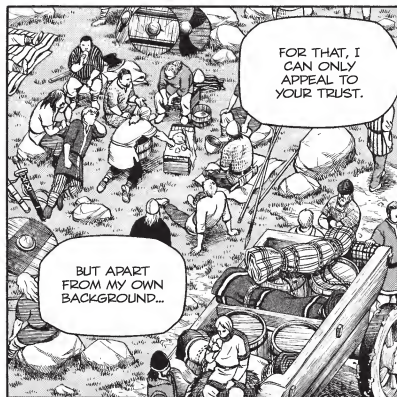
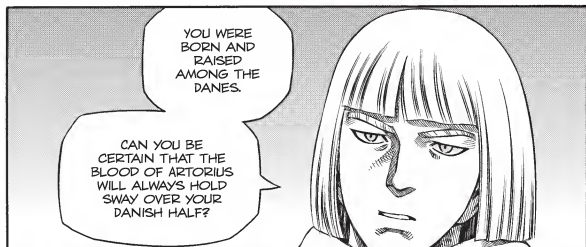
I COULD BE
A FLAGBEARER IN THE
CAUSE AGAINST THE
REACTIONARY ELDER
PRINCE WHEN THE MATTER
OF SUCCESSION IS
RAISED.



IF WE CAN PLOP
THAT SICKLY
PRINCE'S SOFT
ARSE ON THE
THRONE...

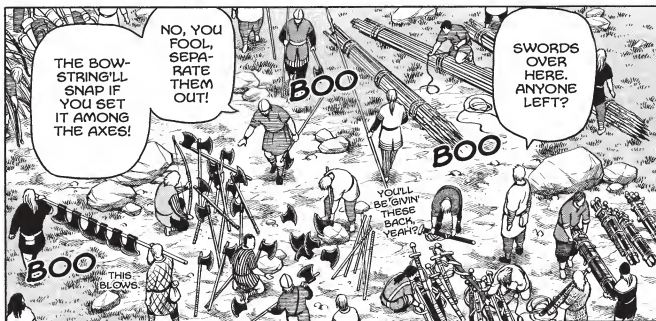
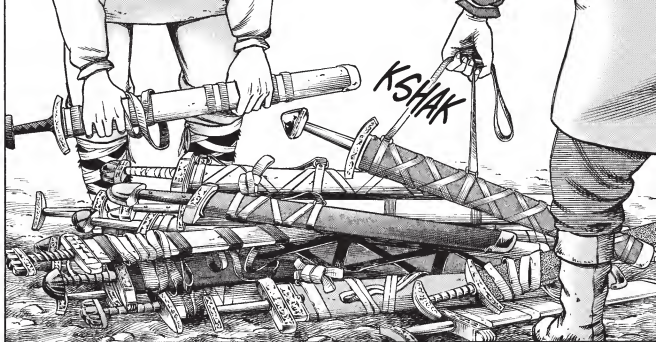
...I COULD BE IN A
POSITION IMPORTANT
ENOUGH TO DICTATE
THE DIRECTION OF
DENMARK'S POLITICS.







...I
DESPISE
THE
DANES.



THE BOW-
STRING'LL
SNAP IF
YOU SET
IT AMONG
THE AXES!

NO, YOU
FOOL,
SEPA-
RATE
THEM
OUT!

SWORDS
OVER
HERE.
ANYONE
LEFT?

BOO

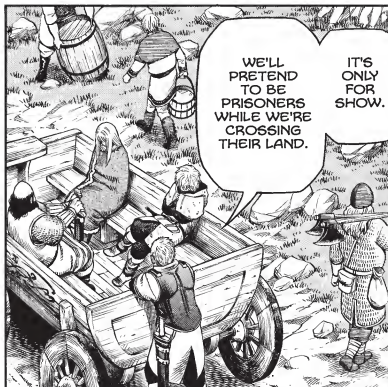
BOO

YOU'LL
BE GIVIN'
THESE
BACK,
YEAH?

BOO
THIS
BLOWS

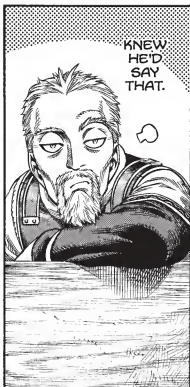
A WISE
MAN IS
NEVER
PARTED
FROM HIS
WEAPON.

I
REFUSE.



WE'LL
PRETEND
TO BE
PRISONERS
WHILE WE'RE
CROSSING
THEIR LAND.

IT'S
ONLY
FOR
SHOW.



KNEW
HE'D
SAY
THAT.



IT'S
CALLED
COM-
PROMISE,
LORD
RAGNAR.

THAT WAY,
THE WELSH
MAINTAIN
THEIR
HONOR, AND
WE AVOID A
POINTLESS
FIGHT.

OUR
WEAPONS
WILL BE
RETURNED
WHEN
WE'RE
"EXILED"
OVER
THE FAR
BORDER.

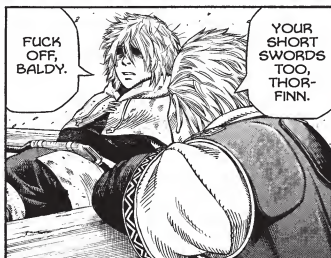


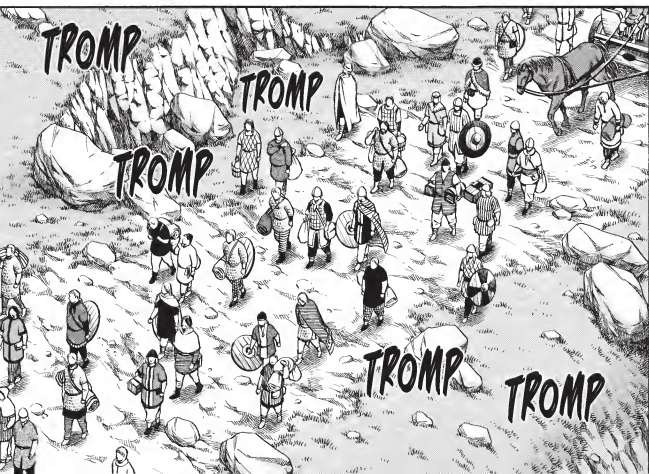
IT'S ALWAYS
POSSIBLE
THEY COULD
CHOOSE TO
MASSACRE
US THE
INSTANT
WE'RE
UNARMED.

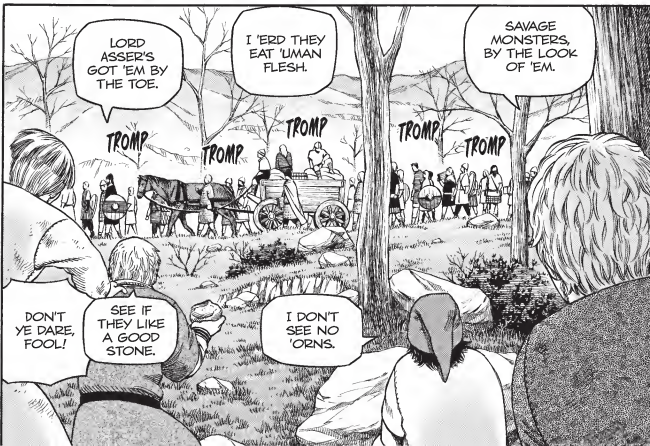


...AROUND
THE
WILLINGNESS
OF YOUR
MEN TO
RELINQUISH
THEIR
WEAPONS
AT A SIMPLE
ORDER.

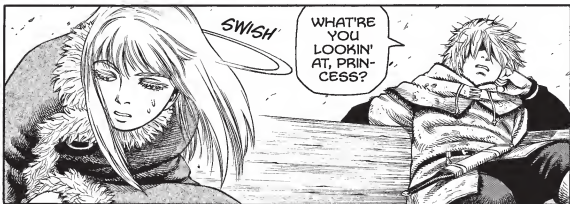
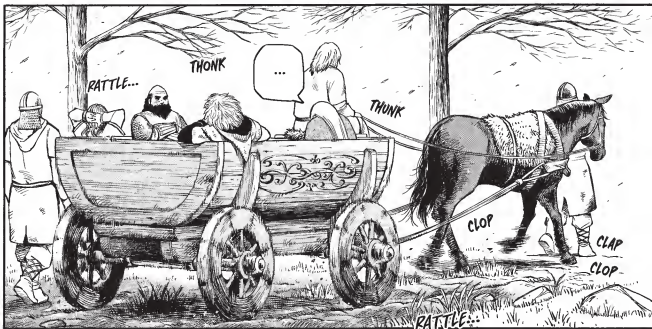
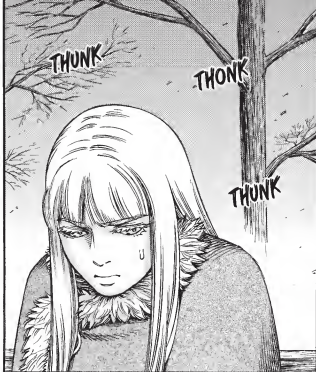
I SIMPLY
CANNOT
WRAP MY
MIND...







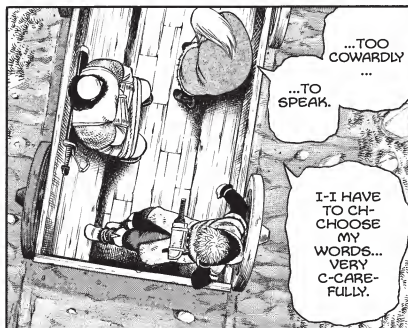






GOT
SOME-
THING TO
SAY? SAY
IT.

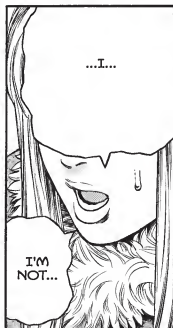
YOU DO
HAVE A
TONGUE,
DON'T
YOU?



...TOO
COWARDLY
...

...TO
SPEAK.

I-I HAVE
TO CH-
OOSE
MY
WORDS...
VERY
C-CARE-
FULLY.



...I...

I'M
NOT...

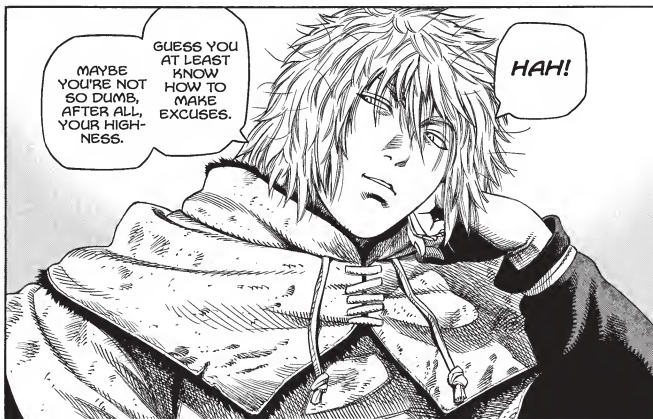
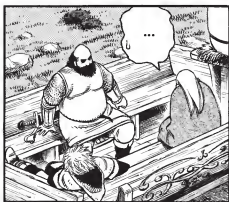


I-I-I AM
NOT LIKE
YOU!

I AM A
PRINCE.
I HAVE A
POSITION!



HIGH-!!



ARRGH!

YOU...

NO ONE
HAS EVER
SPOKEN
TO ME TH-
THAT WAY
BEFORE!!

YOU
INSOLENT
R-ROGUE
!!

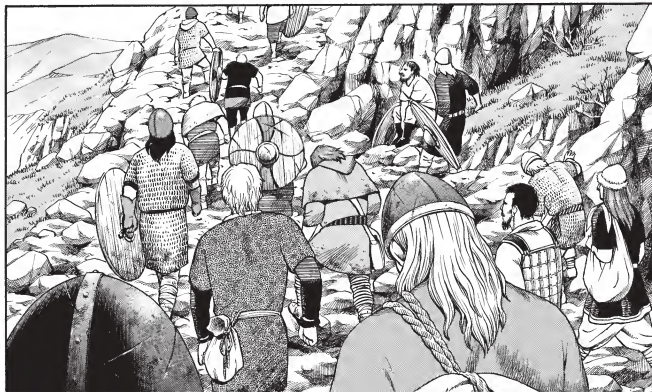
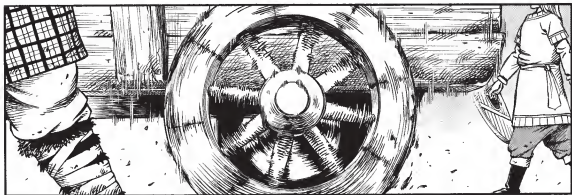
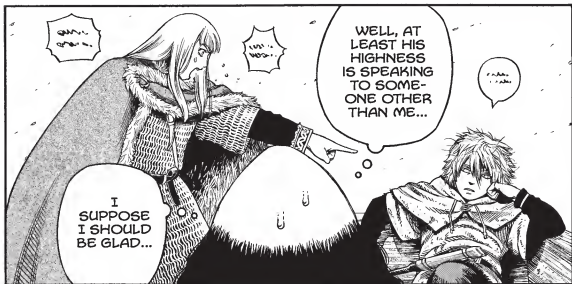
THEN
IT'LL
BUILD
CHARACTER.

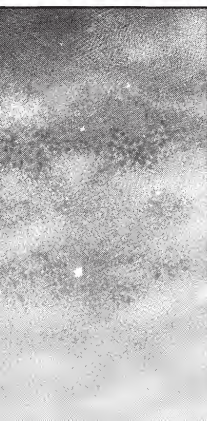
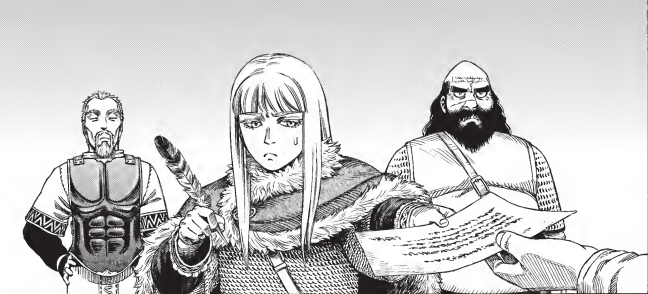
HRRM...

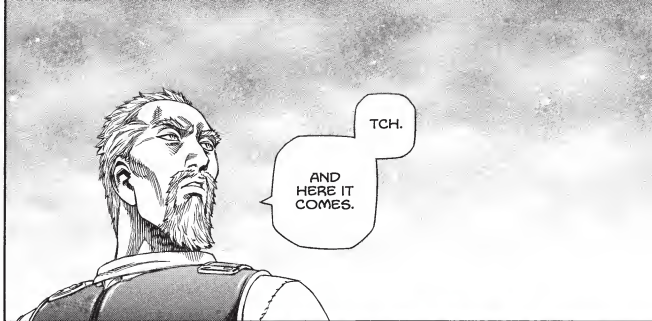
SIT
DOWN
AND
STOP
WHINING.

I DO NOT
MAKE
EXCUSES!
YOU KNOW
NOTHING
OF THE
TROUBLES
OF ROYALTY!

TAKE
BACK
YOUR
SLAN-
DER!





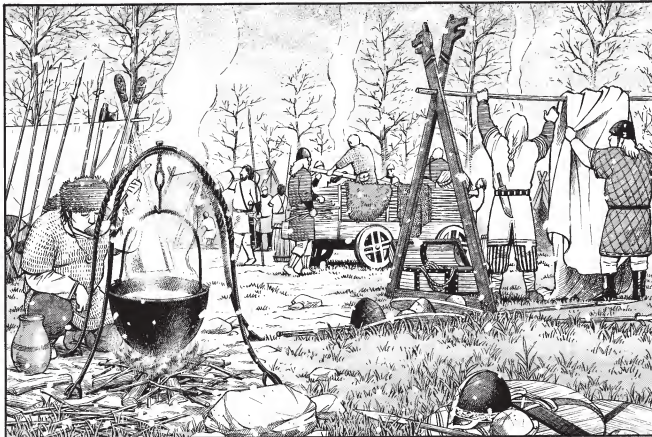


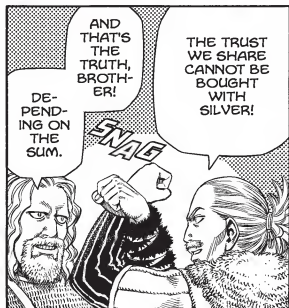
"WHEREFORE
DOST
THOU
FORGET
US FOR
EVER,
AND
FORSAKE
US SO LONG?"

(LAMENTATIONS 5:20)



CHAPTER 27: THE WARRIORS AND THE MONK



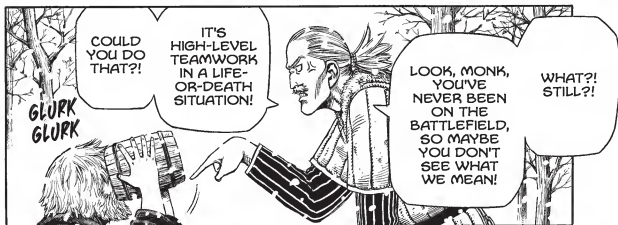




HMM...

I
COULDN'T
SAY.

BUT IT IS
NOTHING
LIKE THE
LOVE
THAT I
IMAGINE...



GLURK
GLURK

COULD
YOU DO
THAT?!

IT'S
HIGH-LEVEL
TEAMWORK
IN A LIFE-
OR-DEATH
SITUATION!

LOOK, MONK,
YOU'VE
NEVER BEEN
ON THE
BATTLEFIELD,
SO MAYBE
YOU DON'T
SEE WHAT
WE MEAN!

WHAT?!
STILL?!



I DON'T
DOUBT
THAT YOU
BROTHERS
COULD
HARDLY LIVE
WITHOUT IT.

I BELIEVE
YOUR
BOND IS
A WON-
DERFUL
THING.

BRPP



...WOULD
YOU STAND
AT MY
BACK AND
PROTECT
ME?

BUT IF IT
WAS ME
ON THE
BATTLE-
FIELD...



I'D NEVER
LEAVE MY
BACK TO
AN ALE-
SOAKED
FRIAR.

I TOLD
YOU, IT'S
ME AND MY
BROTHER
CAN DO
THIS!

AHH?

NO! WHY
WOULD
I?!



HENCE ...
...IT IS
NOT THE
SAME.

AS I SUS-
PECTED.



BLOODY
SOT.

RIGHT
THERE
IN YOUR
HANDS.

WELL,
WHAT
ABOUT
THAT?

GET IT
THROUGH
MY THICK
SKULL!

THEN,
BEGGING
YOUR
PARDON...
COULD YOU
EXPLAIN
YOURSELF
SO EVEN I
CAN UNDER-
STAND?



DOES THAT
MEAN YOU
"LOVE"
LIQUOR, AS
YOU CALL
IT?

YOU
CERTAINLY
ENJOY
YOUR
DRINK.

THAT
ALE.



AND
BESIDES
...

...I DO
NOT
ENJOY
THE
DRINK.

NO...



MAYBE
THAT'S
THE
POINT
OF IT?

THE ALE
MUST
HAVE
ROTTED
HIS
BRAINS.

I GIVE
UP. HE
MAKES
NO
SENSE.

IN THAT
CASE,
HOW
ABOUT
THIS
TALE?



HUH?

DON'T
DRINK
IT,
THEN.

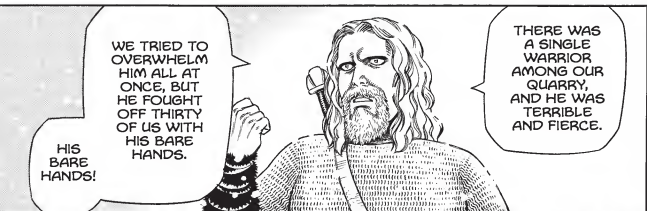
IT
AIN'T
FREE!

...FOR-
GIVE
ME...



WE ONCE
WAYLAID
SOME
SHIPS IN
THE FAROE
ISLANDS.

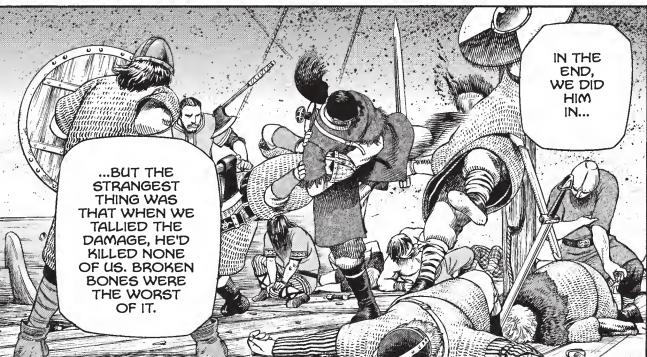
THE
OLDEST
HANDS IN
OUR GROUP
STILL SPEAK
OF IT NOW
AND THEN.



WE TRIED TO
OVERWHELM
HIM ALL AT
ONCE, BUT
HE FOUGHT
OFF THIRTY
OF US WITH
HIS BARE
HANDS.

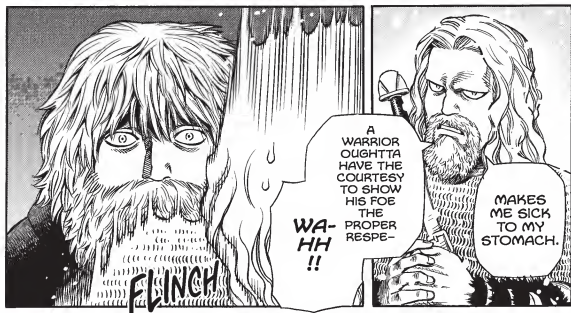
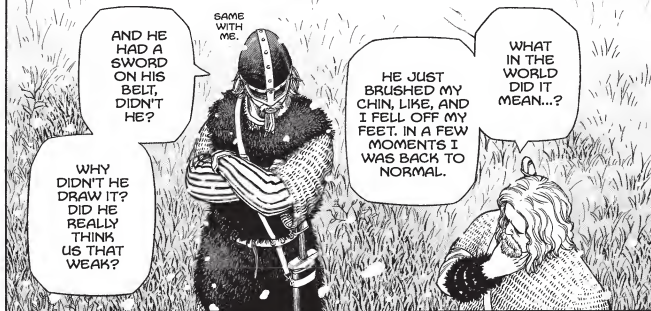
HIS
BARE
HANDS!

THERE WAS
A SINGLE
WARRIOR
AMONG OUR
QUARRY,
AND HE WAS
TERRIBLE
AND FIERCE.



...BUT THE
STRANGEST
THING WAS
THAT WHEN WE
TALLIED THE
DAMAGE, HE'D
KILLED NONE
OF US. BROKEN
BONES WERE
THE WORST
OF IT.

IN THE
END,
WE DID
HIM
IN...





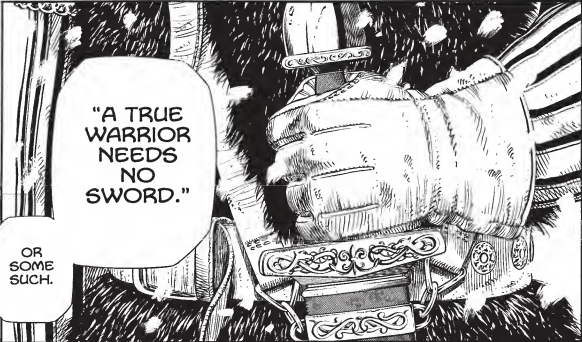
HAH!
LIKE
CALLS
TO LIKE,
EH?

AYE, HE
SAID ODD
THINGS
TOO, HE
DID.



I-I
COULDN'T
NAME 'IM
FOR YOU.

WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN...
"WHAT
ELSE"?

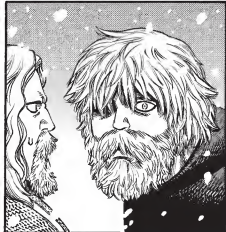


"A TRUE
WARRIOR
NEEDS
NO
SWORD."

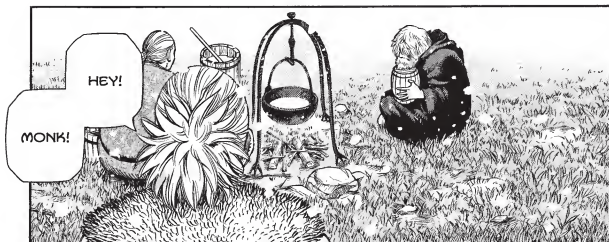
OR
SOME
SUCH.



...









CHAPTER 28: NIGHT ATTACK



DEAR
GOD,

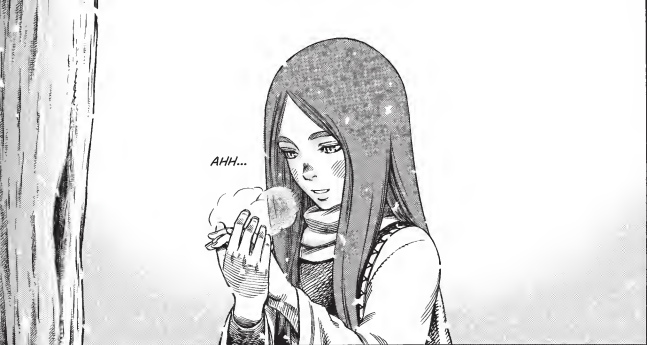
MUST WE
TRULY
BE PURE
IN ALL
ASPECTS
OF OUR
LIVES?

...THAT EVEN
ONE OF YOUR
ANGELS
WOULD BE
PUNISHED IF
HE DISOBEYED
YOUR
TEACHINGS.

DADDY
TOLD
ME...

IS
THIS
TRUE?





AHH...



NO DALLYING
NOW!
HELP SET
UP FOR
SUPPER!

ANNE!

ALL I
CAN
SAY...



I-

I'M
COMING,
I'M
COMING!

...IS THAT
YOUR
KINGDOM
ABOVE
SEEMS SO
VERY FAR
AWAY.



I'M JUST
A LOWLY
GIRL WHO
DOESN'T
UNDER-
STAND
YOUR
THOUGHTS.



IT
IS A
DIFFICULT
TRUTH
TO
BEAR.

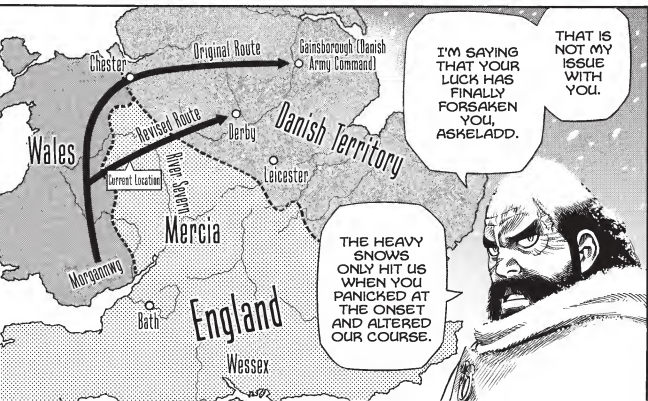
...AND
LOOK
DOWN
UPON US
ON THE
EARTH.

YOU SIT
ON
YOUR
THRONE
IN
HEAVEN
...



THERE'S
NO USE
COMPLAINING
TO ME
ABOUT THE
WEATHER,
LORD
RAGNAR.

EARLDOM OF
MERCIA,
CENTRAL ENGLAND
DECEMBER 1013





WE CAN
BARELY
PUSH
OUR WAY
THROUGH
THE
MIDDLE OF
ENGLAND.

AND YOUR
MEN ARE
RATTLED,
TO SAY
THE
LEAST.



DO YOU
SEE ANY
OF THEM
FAILING TO
ACT ON MY
ORDERS?

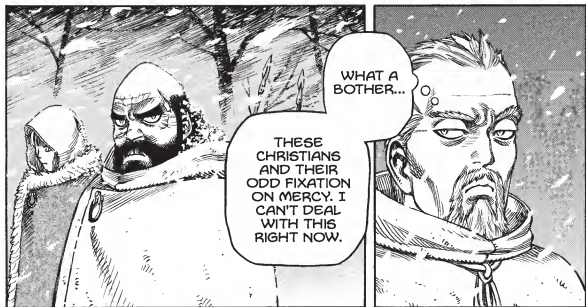
MY MEN HAVE
BEEN THROUGH
THICK AND
THIN. IF THEY
CAN SURVIVE
OUR BATTLES,
THEY CAN
HANDLE THIS.



IF WE ARE TO
STOP AND
WAIT OUT
THE WINTER,
WE WILL
BE BETTER
SERVED BACK
IN WALES,
MUCH AS I
HATE TO SAY
IT.

TURN
BACK TO
WALES.

WE
CANNOT
CROSS
MERCIA.



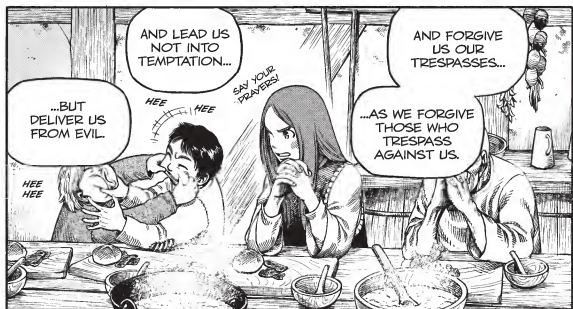
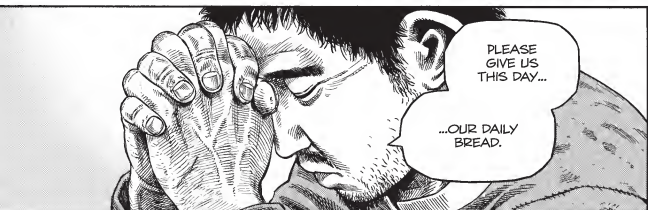


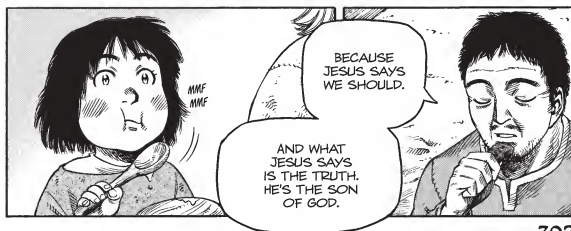
WHAT
HAS
YOU SO
UNSETTLED?

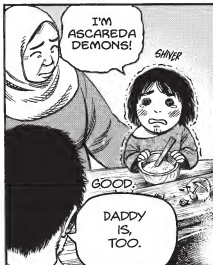
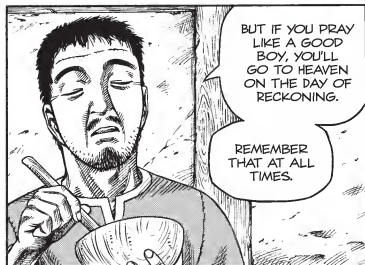
RAIDING
AND
PILLAGING...

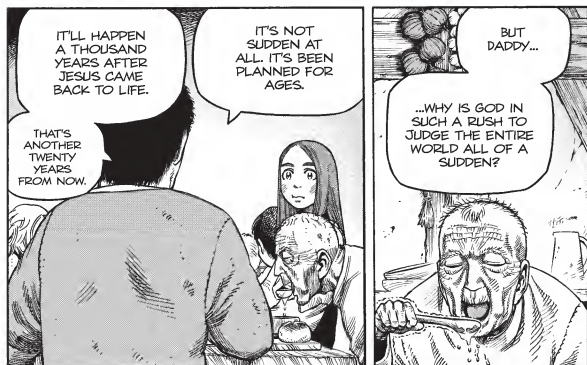
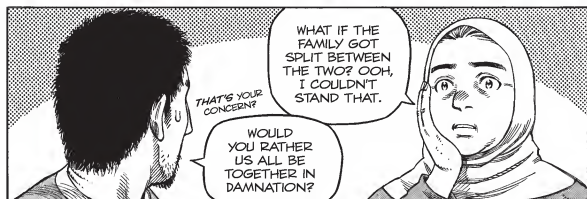
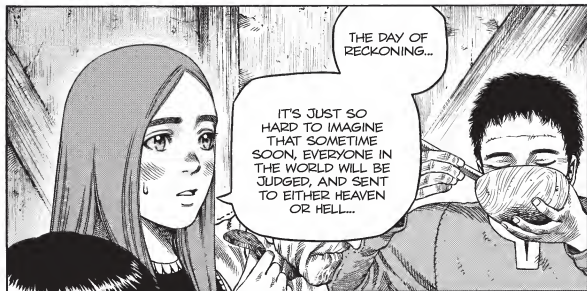
...IS THE
TIME-
HONORED
TRADITION
OF THE
NORDIC
PEOPLE.











THEY'RE
THE
WORST
OF ALL.

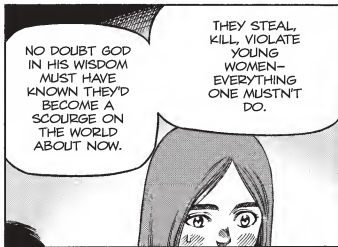
EXACTLY.

WICKED?
LIKE THE
DANES?



NO DOUBT GOD
IN HIS WISDOM
MUST HAVE
KNOWN THEY'D
BECOME A
SCOURGE ON
THE WORLD
ABOUT NOW.

THEY STEAL,
KILL, VIOLATE
YOUNG
WOMEN—
EVERYTHING
ONE MUSTN'T
DO.



ANNE!
WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING?

GOTTA
PEE.

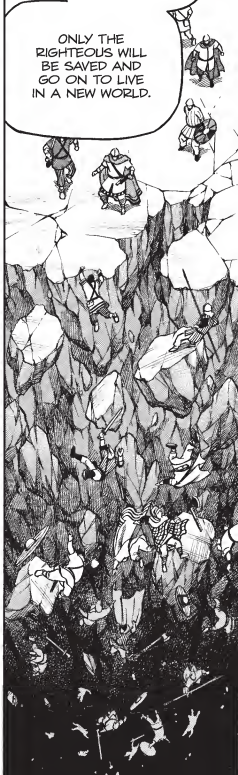


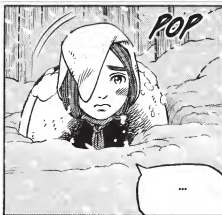
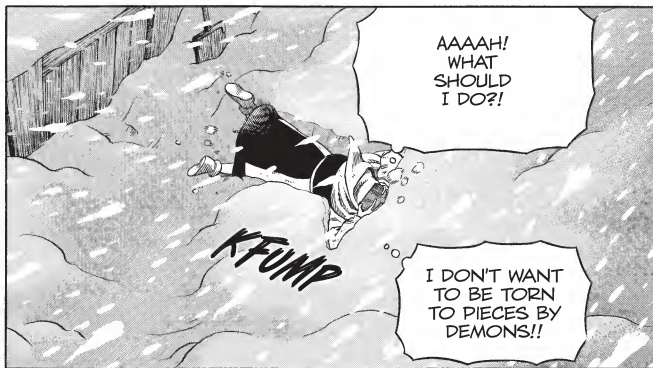
BUT DON'T WORRY,
ALL YOU HAVE TO
DO IS FOLLOW
JESUS'S TEACHINGS
AND...

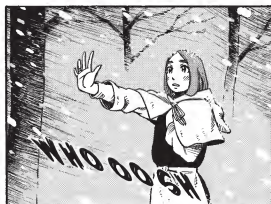
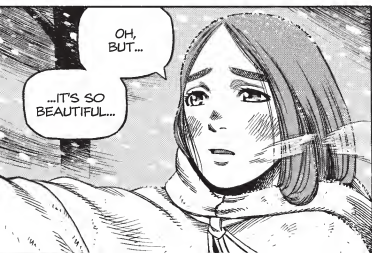
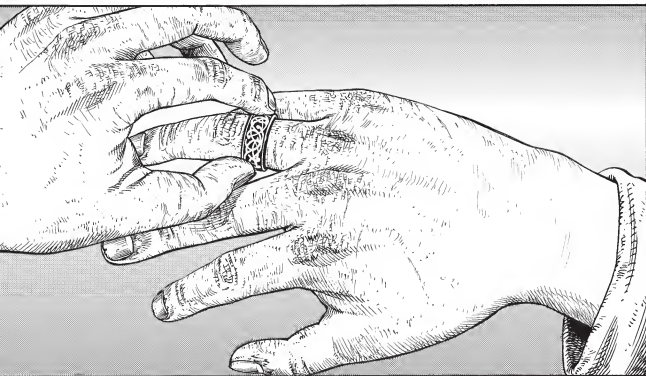
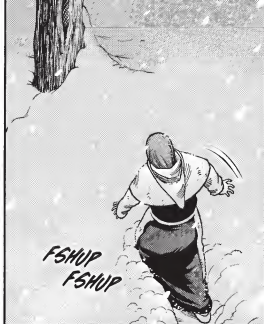


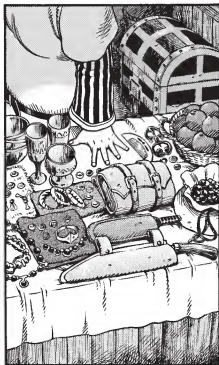
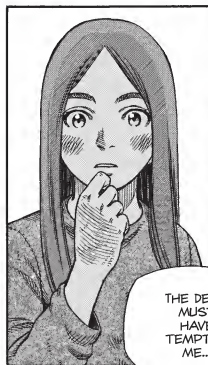
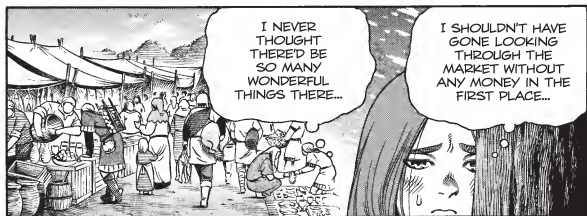
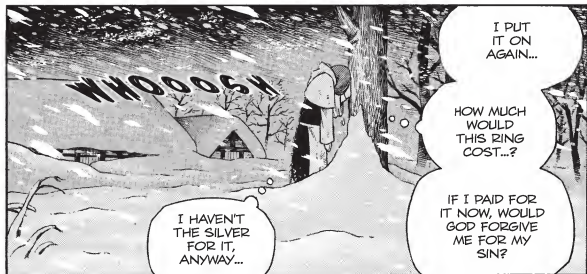
IN TWENTY
YEARS, GOD'S
JUDGMENT
WILL SEND ALL
THE WICKED
TO HELL.

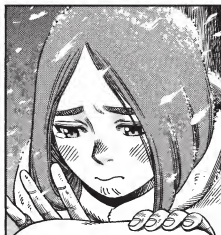
ONLY THE
RIGHTEOUS WILL
BE SAVED AND
GO ON TO LIVE
IN A NEW WORLD.





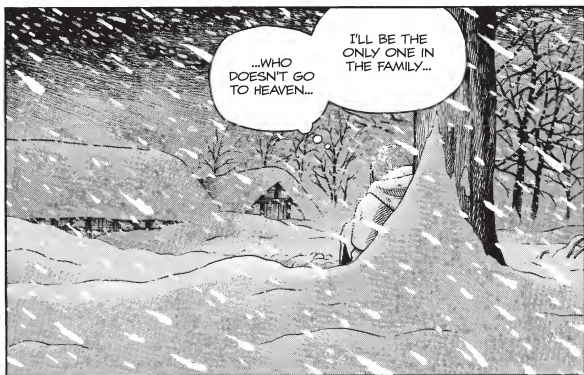
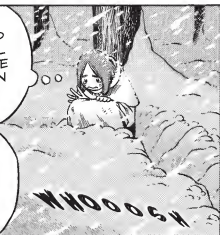






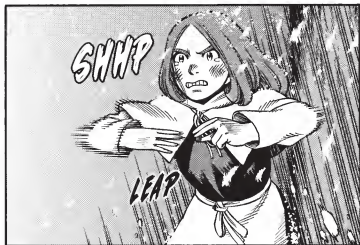
NO DOUBT A BAD
GIRL LIKE ME WILL
BE CAST INTO THE
FIRES OF HELL ON
JUDGMENT DAY...

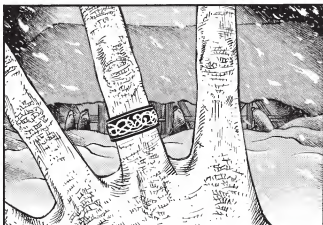
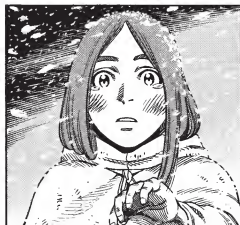
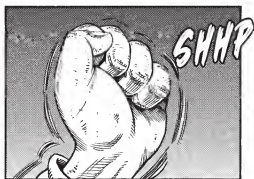
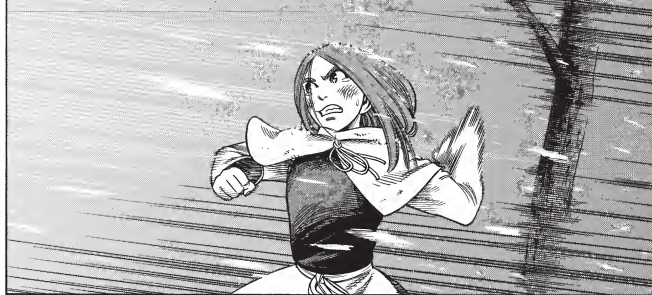
GOD IS
WATCHING MY
SINS, EVEN
NOW...

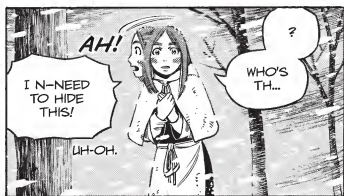
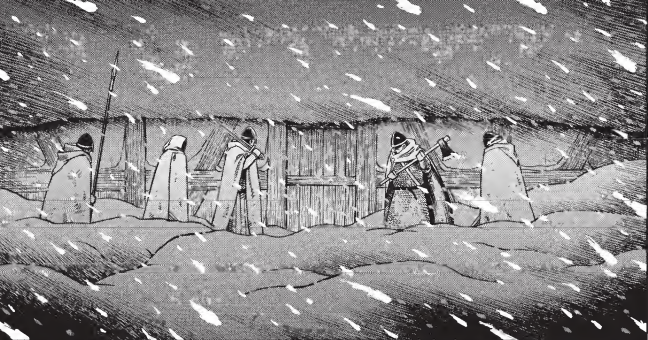


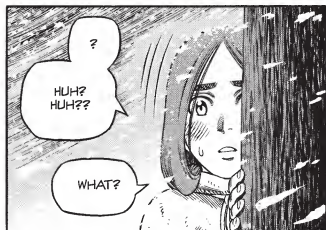
...WHO
DOESN'T GO
TO HEAVEN...

I'LL BE THE
ONLY ONE IN
THE FAMILY...











WHAT
THE HELL
DOES HE
THINK
HE'S
DOING?

HAS HE
TRULY
GONE
MAD THIS
TIME?

WHOOOSH



GUESS
THEY'VE
STARTED
OVER
THERE.

AH.

WHO
KNOWS.

IT'S
FUTILE TO
PONDER
HOW
THESE
CHRISTIANS'
HEADS
WORK.

WHAT
WAS HE
SCREAMING
IN?
ENGLISH?

WAS HE
TRYING
TO TIP
OFF THE
VILLAG-
ERS?



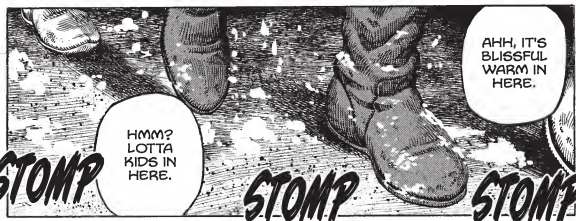
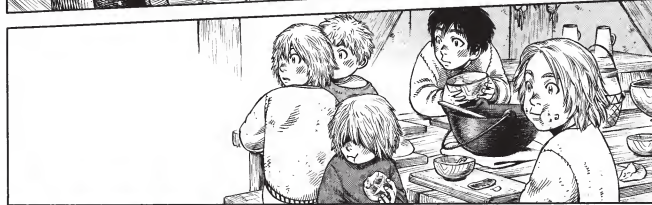
WHO
CARES
IF THEY
DO?
LET'S
GO.

THINK
THEY
KNOW
WE'RE
HERE
NOW?



EVENING!

SUPPER
INSPEC-
TION!



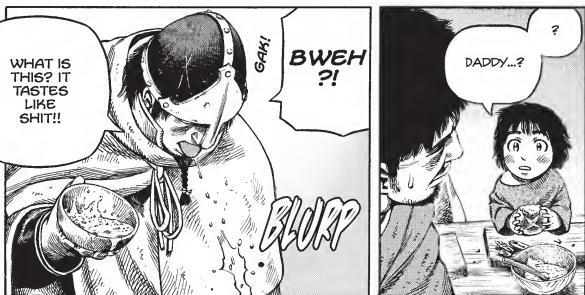
HMM?
LOTTA
KIDS IN
HERE.

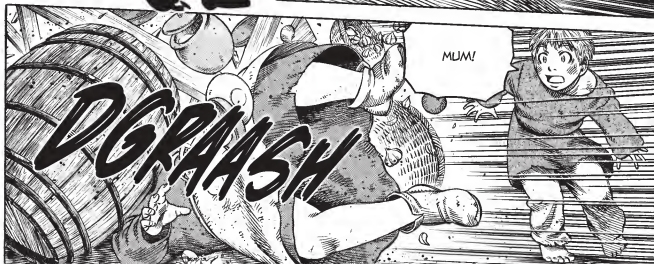
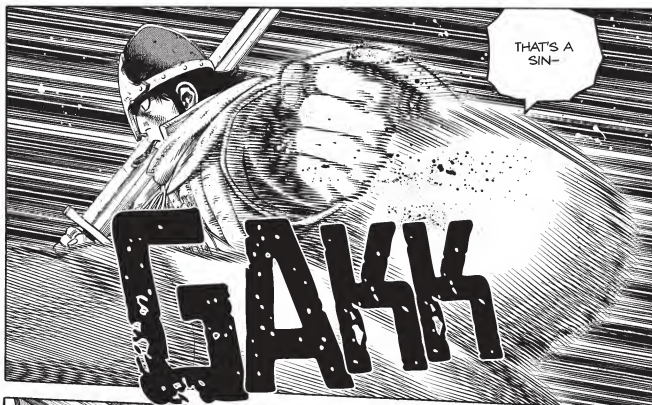
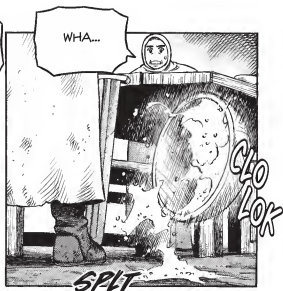
AHH, IT'S
BLISSFUL
WARM IN
HERE.

STOMP

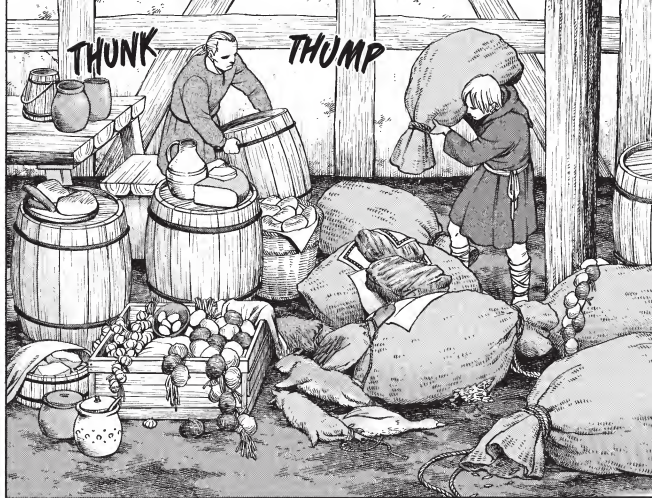
STOMP

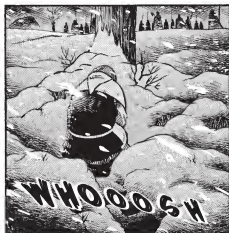
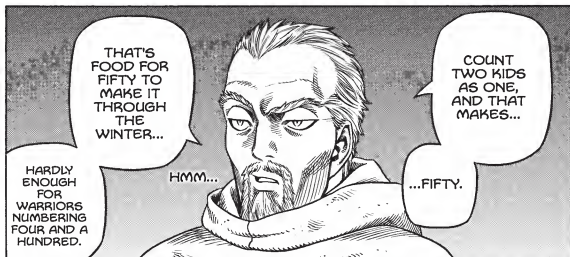
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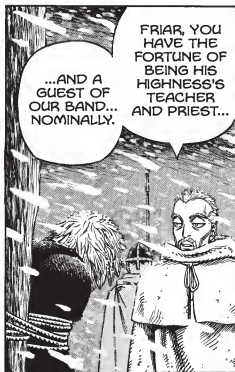






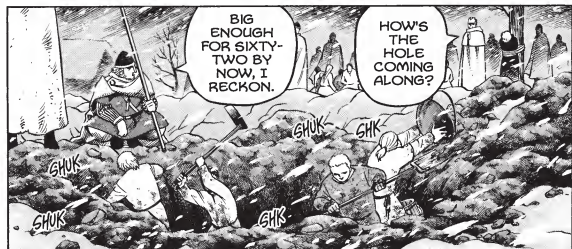
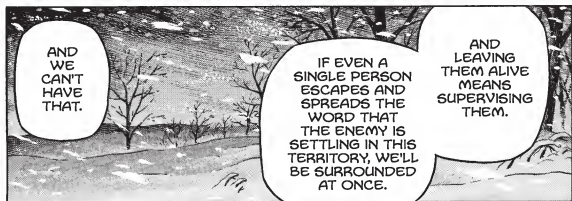
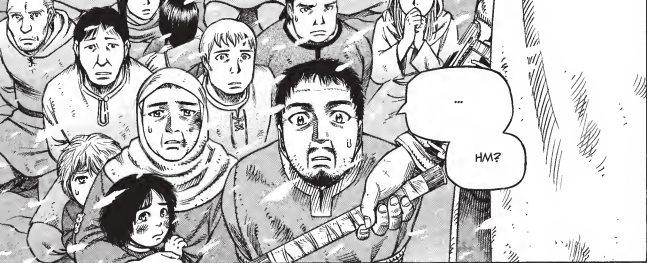


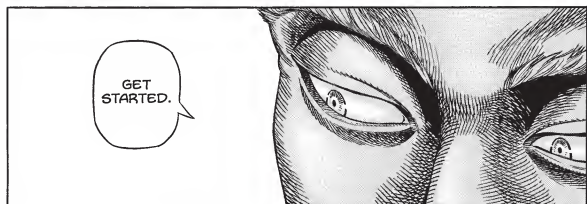
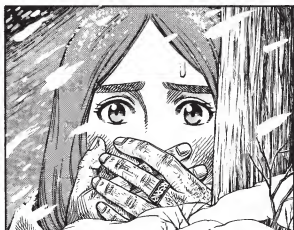
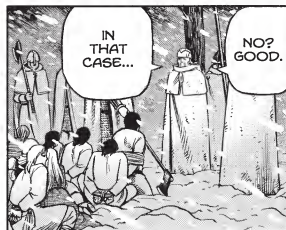






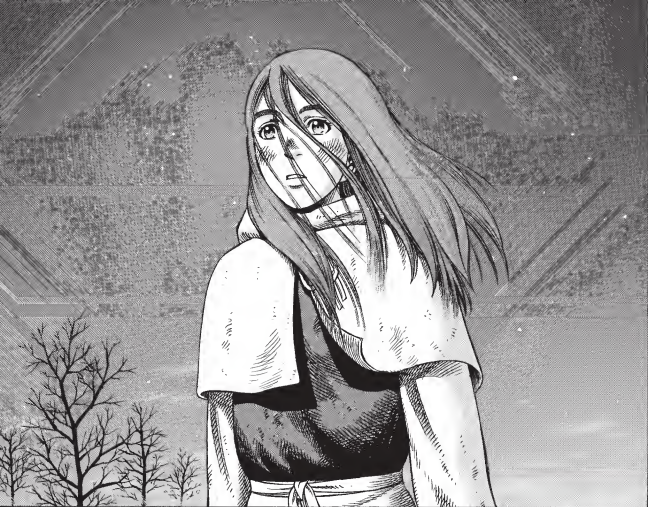






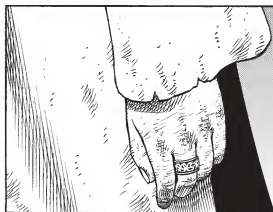






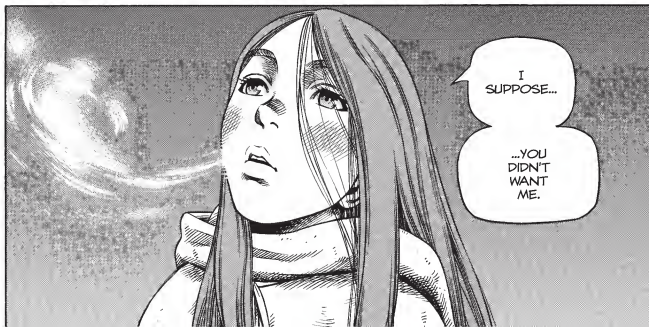
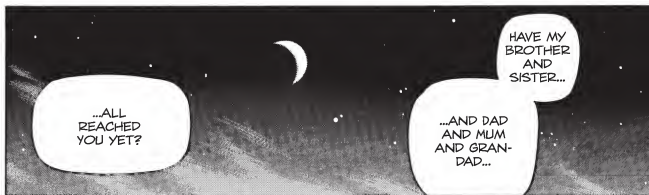
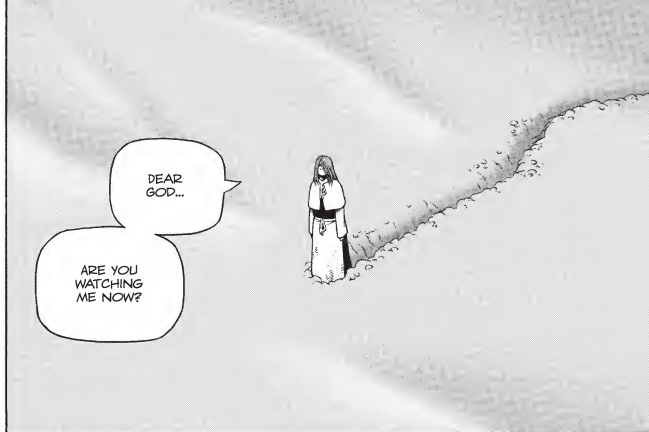
HOW LONG
AND HOW
FAR, I
DON'T
REMEMBER.

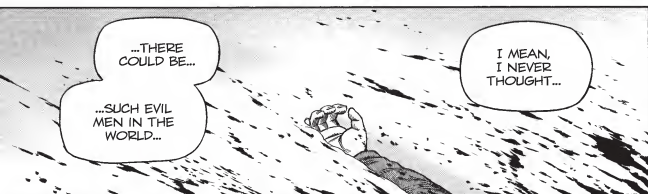
AFTER
THAT,
I
WALKED.

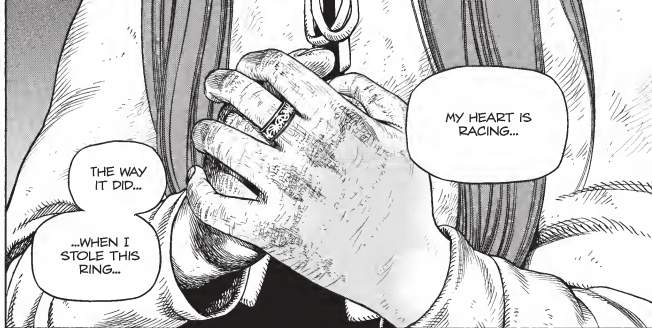


I WAS
STANDING
IN A
FIELD,
ALONE.

THE NEXT
THING I
KNEW, THE
SNOW HAD
STOPPED.







THORFINN'S TRAVELS

VILLAGE IN MERCIA

Askeladd raids this village to use as a hideout until the spring after a sudden blizzard halts the march.



ASKELADD



ANNE



KINGDOM OF BRYCHEINIOG

One of the tiny kingdoms in the mountains of Wales. Askeladd's forces are held "captive" through their territory and then "exiled" on the other side.



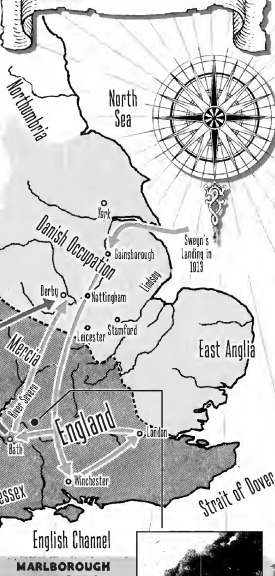
ASSER

KINGDOM OF MORGANNWG

Askeladd's forces cross the river into this Welsh kingdom to escape Thorkell's pursuit.



GRATIANUS



MARLBOROUGH NEAR BATH

Thorkell chases the Danish Army with Prince Canute held captive. Askeladd plots to strike Thorkell and take Canute from him.



CANUTE



RAGNAR



THORKELL

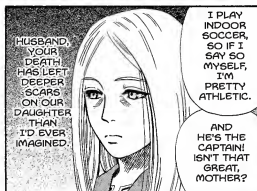
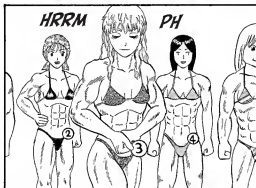
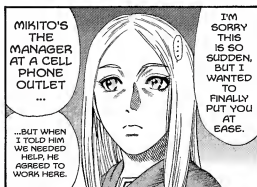
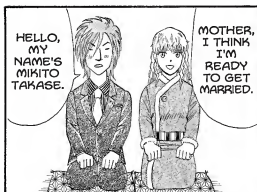


THORFINN





VIKING GIRL YLVA



AFTERWORD

My first son was born in 2006. The labor itself was hard, but raising our child is even harder for my wife. Breastfeeding him, changing his diapers, switching him to solid foods, taking him on walks, comforting him in the middle of the night... All Vikings started as babies, of course, and the same painstaking care must have been taken to raise them into adults. And yet, once they were adults, they rushed to their deaths, killing others and causing misery. I bet those Viking mothers were so exasperated. But even knowing what would eventually happen, they still raised their sons. Mothers are so great. Men are so stupid.

**MAKOTO
YUKIMURA**



**VINLAND
SAGA**

Translation Notes

Fyrd, page 22



An Anglo-Saxon militia system in which civilians were called to defend their region for short periods. It was largely developed and practiced as a means of defense against Viking raids. Service was seen as a duty and obligation, with men reporting to fortresses called burhs. By the end of the 11th century, the fyrd system had largely been replaced by standing armies of lifetime soldiers and knights employed by lords and kings.

Thegn, page 27

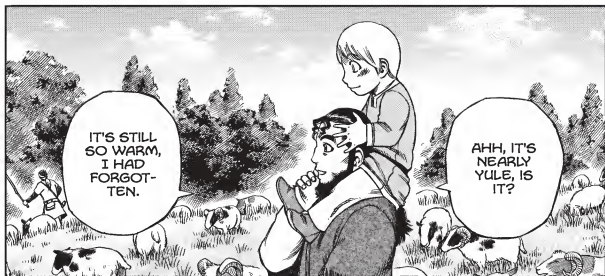


A personal servant of a lord or king, in this case referring to official soldiers as opposed to militia men. The definition varied depending on the time and place; for example, the Scottish thanes as seen in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* were royal officials much like counts.

Burh, page 56

A military fort utilized by the Anglo-Saxons to defend against invasion. When a fyrd was called, men reported to the burhs, some of which were built around former Roman settlements. The larger burhs grew into their own towns, forming the basis for the English word “borough.”

Yule, page 134



A Northern European pagan celebration based around the winter solstice. With the spread of Christianity among Germanic peoples, the traditional Yule holiday was adapted into Christmas, and several remnants of Yule (such as the Yule log) still exist today within the Christmas setting.

Ragnarok, page 158



The “final battle” in Norse mythology, in which most of the gods will perish and humanity will be wiped out.

Einherjar, page 181



The worthy warriors who have been summoned to Valhalla by the valkyries after their mortal deaths. The einherjar feast in the great hall day after day, preparing for the coming of Ragnarok.

Bifrost, page 181

The rainbow bridge that connects Midgard (the mortal realm) with Asgard, home of the gods.

Legatus, page 283

The title of a Roman army general, often styled “legate” in English. As the Romans had abandoned Britain (and Wales) by the early 400s, the trappings of Roman culture displayed in the story are merely remnants of the past and not indicative of direct Roman involvement.



Córdoba, page 305

The Caliphate of Córdoba was a kingdom extending over most of the Iberian Peninsula and parts of North Africa between 929 and 1031 A.D. As perhaps the height of Moorish power in Spain, Córdoba was at one point the most advanced and enlightened city in Europe before the Muslims were steadily driven south back into Morocco by the Christians by the end of the 15th century.

Gwenhwyfar, page 352

The queen of King Arthur, typically styled “Guinevere” in English. Gwenhwyfar is the Welsh form of the name. The name means “the White Enchantress” or “the White Fairy.”



For Our Farewell Is Near Part 2

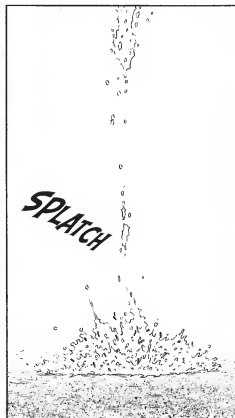
By Makoto Yukimura

Introduction

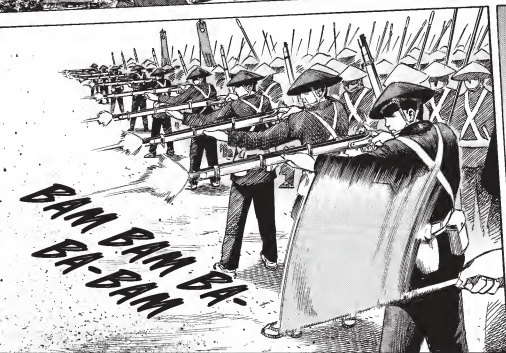
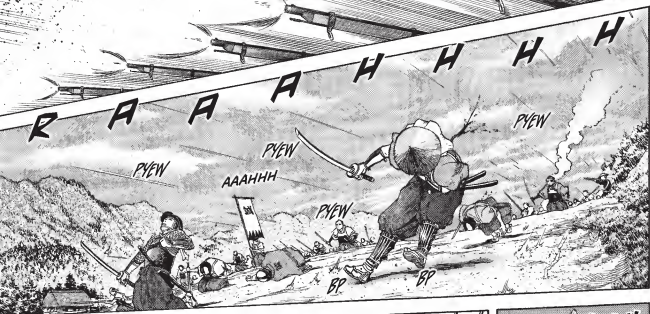
At the end of the Edo Period, the arrival of the “black ships” from abroad spelled the end of 260 years of isolation enforced by the shogunate. In response to the shogunate’s desire to open the country’s borders, disgruntled regional forces loyal to the emperor, such as the Choshu Domain, planned a rebellion. The imperial loyalists massed in Kyoto, where the emperor lived, growing increasingly bold until the city became, in effect, a lawless area. In an effort to restore order, the shogunate recruited ronin (masterless samurai) in Edo (Tokyo) and sent them to Kyoto.

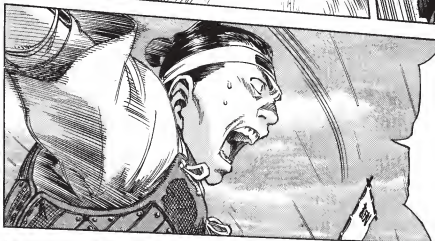
Among these men were Kondo Isami and Okita Soji, students at the Shieikan dojo in Tama. Upon reaching Kyoto, they formed the “Shinsengumi” under the orders of the daimyo of Aizu Domain, who had been charged with keeping the peace in the city. But, unable to reverse the tide of history, the shogunate lost power, and the Shinsengumi were defeated at the Battle of Toba-Fushimi. In 1868, Kondo and Okita had fled to Edo. Okita’s body was already wracked with tuberculosis at this time.

To read the first part of *For Our Farewell Is Near*, pick up a copy of *Vinland Saga*, Book One.



**BOOM BOO-BOOM
BOOM**





WHAT'S
THE
MATTER
WITH
YOU?!
SHOOT
THEM
BACK!!



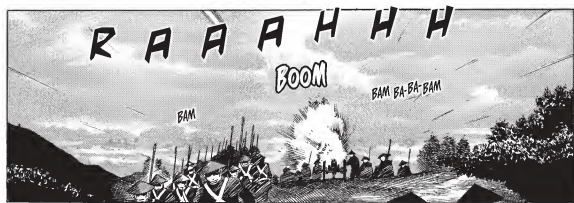
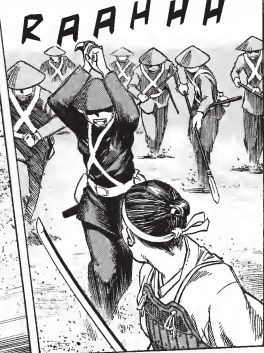
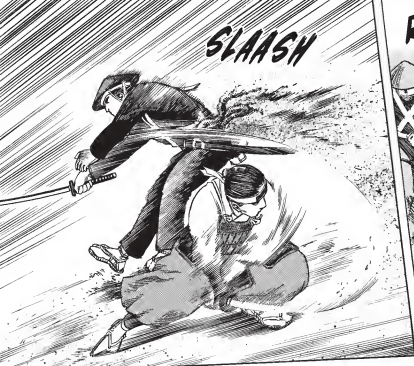
I'LL RUN
YOU
THROUGH
MYSELF!!

RUN?! YOU
FEAR THEIR
FLIMSY
BULLETS?!

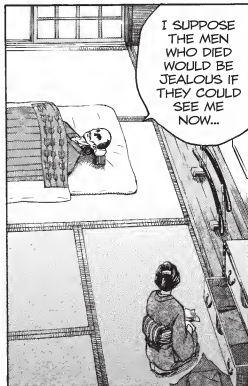
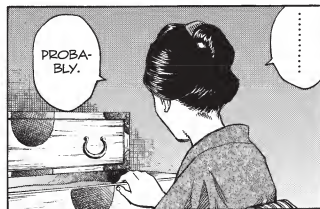
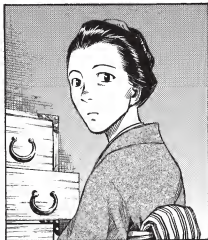
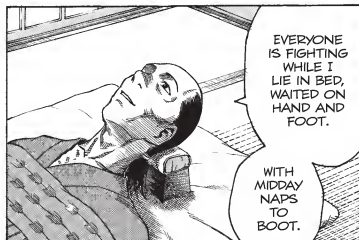


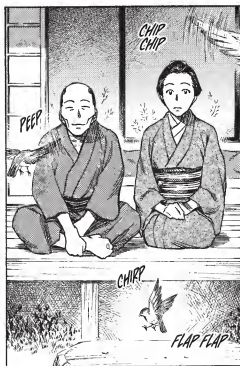
RUN
FOR YOUR
LIFE!

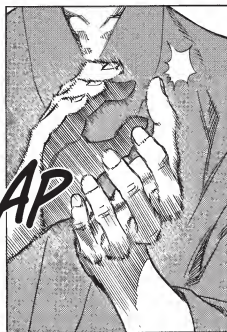
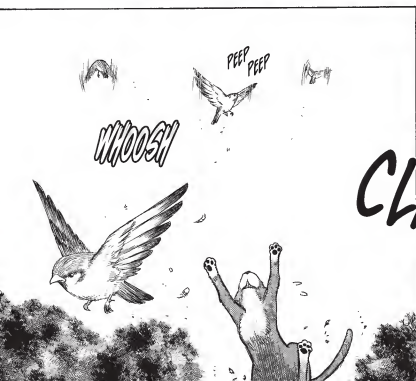
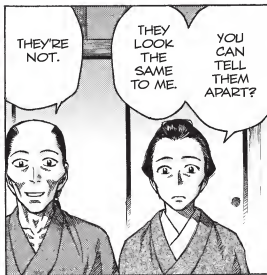
IT'S TOO
MUCH!
WE'RE NO
MATCH
FOR THE
IMPERIAL-
ISTS!

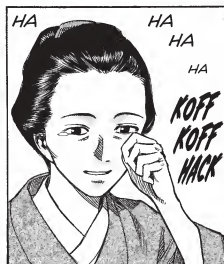
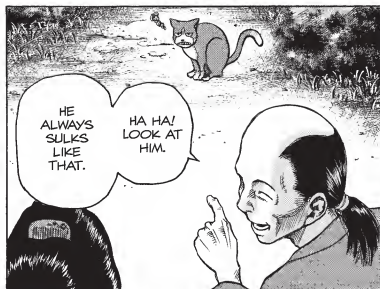
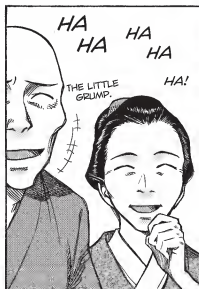










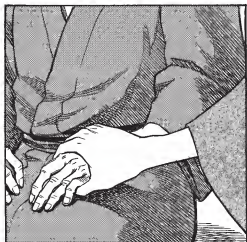




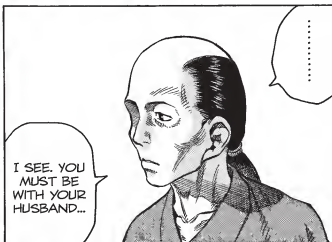
I WILL
NOT...BE
ABLE TO
SEE TO
YOU FOR
A LONG
WHILE.



MY HUSBAND
RINTARO IS
ENLISTING
WITH
SHONAI.
I MUST
FOLLOW HIM
THERE.



I SEE. YOU
MUST BE
WITH YOUR
HUSBAND...

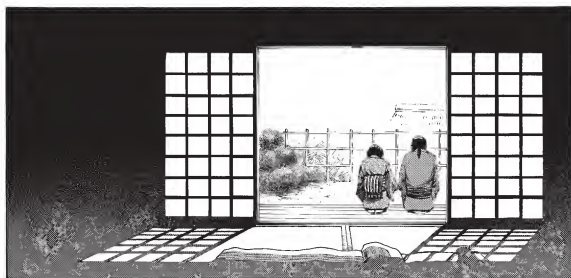
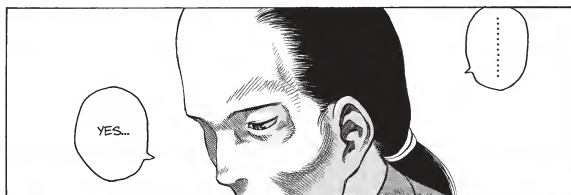


WE WILL
COME
BACK
WHEN THE
WORLD IS
AT PEACE
AGAIN.

...YOU
MUST
REGAIN
YOUR
STRENGTH.



SOJI-
SAN...



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